

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**British band Keane
working toward
trans-Atlantic fame**

Page 18

Lead singer Tom Chaplin



**Ceremony marks
start of Afghan
road repair**

Page 5



**NCAA tournament
brackets,
regionals capsules**

Pages 24-29

Volume 2, No.337 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2005

Blueprint for Bagram

No longer just a city of tents, U.S. air base in Afghanistan transformed by plan for permanent structures Page 4



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The foundations are set for the first brick-and-mortar barracks building on Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, to replace the B-huts now being used. Slowly, but steadily, a slew of construction projects at Bagram are providing troops with better housing and improved work areas as well as a handful of new shops for eating and entertainment.

Remember to
thank your
Command
for today's
copy of Stars
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is
now printed and
delivered locally from
Afghanistan, Kuwait,
Iraq, and Qatar giving
you up-to-date daily
news, sports and
entertainment.

Without the assistance
of local commands,
your friends and fellow
soldiers would be
isolated without news
from home.

Contact
Stars and Stripes
circulation with
questions about
delivery at

49-6155-601-455
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter
in the field, email

iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Judge's slain relatives: Rambling and threatening letters from the man believed to be the killer of Judge Joan LeRoux's husband and mother prompted the Illinois Attorney General's office to investigate him six years ago, former state officials say.

Investigators went to the Chicago home of Bart Ross in the winter of 1999 and created an extensive file on him, noting his paranoia and anger at the government and judiciary, said a former investigator and the office's one-time chief of investigations.

Ross, 57, an unemployed electrician, committed suicide Wednesday in a Milwaukee suburb after a police officer pulled him over because of broken taillights on his van.

Gov. Dean's records: More than two years after he left the governor's office to make his unsuccessful run for the presidency, the fight over public access to Howard Dean's gubernatorial records is coming before the Vermont Supreme Court in Montpelier.

Monday's hearing is on the state's appeal of a ruling that 86 boxes of records Dean sealed when he left office in 2003 are instead presumed to be open.

Superior Court Judge Alan Cook ordered Dean and the state to identify each of the hundreds of thousands of documents in the boxes and say why each should be covered by executive privilege.

Al-Qaida terror plot: A northern Virginia man accused of joining al-Qaida and plotting with them to assassinate President Bush pleaded not guilty Monday in federal court to providing material support to terrorists and other charges.

An Aug. 22 trial date was scheduled for Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, of Falls Church. He was indicted last month and charged with six counts that would allow a maximum prison term of 80 years.

Military

Recruitment protests: Four anti-war protesters accused of spilling blood at a military recruiting station in New York will go on trial in federal court in May.

U.S. District Magistrate Dave Peebles set a tentative trial date of May 7 before U.S. District Judge Thomas McAvoy for the four Ithaca residents.

The protesters' case was turned over to federal prosecutors last summer after a Tompkins County Court jury deadlocked on a decision.

At that time, District Attorney George Denton decided to dismiss the state charges pending against the four and turn the case over to federal prosecutors.

The four demonstrators pleaded not guilty Friday in federal court, maintaining that they were upholding international law during the March 17, 2003, protest at a military recruiting office in suburban Ithaca.

World

Pakistan's rape sentences: Pakistan's Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide the case of six men sentenced to death for raping a woman on orders from a village council, following two conflicting rulings by lower courts in the high-profile case.

The men were sentenced to death in 2002 after elders ordered the rape of Mukhtar Mai, 33, as punishment for her brother's alleged illicit affair with a woman from another family. But on March 3, the convictions of the six reduced to life in prison, sparking an outcry by human rights groups both in Pakistan and abroad.

The Federal Shariat Court, the nation's highest Islamic tribunal, ruled out the acquittal Friday and reinstated the death sen-



Democracy in Nepal: Riot police detain a student activist at a protest rally in Katmandu, Nepal, on Sunday. Demonstrators chanted against King Gyanendra, demanding restoration of democracy and withdrawal of a state of emergency since last month. As demonstrations continued Monday, police arrested dozens of protesters, while communist rebels threatened to plunge the Himalayan country deeper into crisis by pledging to step up attacks. More than 30 activists were arrested in Katmandu, where some 200 people rallied in the city's Anson market, waving the red and white flags of the Nepali Congress, the nation's largest political party. "We want democracy, we want freedom," they chanted.

tences, a ruling the Supreme Court on Monday deemed unconstitutional.

Milan air disaster: An Italian judge on Monday convicted four people and acquitted three others in a 2001 plane crash that killed 118 people at Milan's Linate airport in Italy's worst civil aviation disaster, a lawyer for victims' relatives said.

The four were convicted of multiple manslaughter and sentenced to prison terms of up to four years and four months, said lawyer Alessandro Giorgetti. Three of the defendants were employees of Italy's air traffic control agency, ENAV, while one was an airport official, Giorgetti said.

Kosovo's future: Belgrade officials were to meet Monday to plot a strategy on Kosovo ahead of talks expected later this year on the contested province's future.

The top-level meeting in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, will include Serbia-Montenegro President Svetozar Marovic, Serbia's President Boris Tadic, Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and others.

The officials will try to outline Serbia-Montenegro's position on Kosovo — a southern Serbian province that has been an international protectorate since 1999, said a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

War crimes tribunals: Kosovo's former prime minister pleaded not guilty Monday to a list of atrocities he allegedly committed as a commander of the Western-backed ethnic Albanian separatists, and a former Bosnian Serb paramilitary commander surrendered to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands — the 11th suspect to give himself up this year.

Ramush Haradinaj, who resigned last Wednesday as Kosovo's prime minister, responded "not guilty" to each of 37 counts of war crimes allegedly committed in 1998.

Turkey earthquakes: A strong earthquake shook eastern Turkey on Monday, damaging buildings and injuring at least 18 people two days after another quake in the region, authorities said.

The earthquake with a preliminary magni-

tude of 5.9 was centered in rural Bingol province and struck at 3:55 a.m., toppling several buildings that had been badly damaged in Saturday's magnitude 5.7 temblor, officials said.

Authorities said there no reports of any deaths, but at least 18 people were injured.

Deadly Philippines snacks: Laboratory tests show that 27 schoolchildren who died after eating cassava roots last week in the Philippines were poisoned with pesticide, health experts said Monday.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit told a news conference that tests showed pesticide was likely the cause.

"This means that it's very much possible that the food was prepared in an environment that was highly toxic and contaminated with chemical poisons and bacteria," Dayrit said.

Asian bird flu precautions: Hong Kong's government said Monday it plans to step up preparations against bird flu and slash the local chicken population by half to 1.8 million, sparking outrage from the poultry industry.

Locals have long favored freshly slaughtered fowl from live poultry outlets, but authorities want to clamp down on the practice to improve hygiene.

The reduced chicken supply of 1.8 million birds would allow officials to better control the birds if a bird flu outbreak occurs, Hong Kong's Health, Welfare and Food Bureau said in briefing paper for lawmakers discussed Monday.

Violent G8 protests: About 150 protesters detained at the Group Eight summit in northern Italy in 2001 were kicked, slapped, tripped, kned in the groin and dragged by their hair, according to a report. Prosecutors in Genoa released a 534-page report over the weekend detailing "inhuman" and "degrading" behavior by police officers, corrections officers and doctors at the Bolzaneto police garrison, Italian media reported Sunday.

What happens next is unclear: Nearly four years have gone by, and unless the judicial process is put on a fast track the statute of limitations could run out, Milan daily Corriere della Sera reported.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Kurds, Shiites work to form government

Both sides dealing to put a coalition team in power for opening of parliament March 16

By SAMEER N. YACUB

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Kurdish leaders converged on Baghdad for talks Monday with majority Shiites as both sides pressed to secure a deal to form a coalition government before the newly elected parliament meets for the first time this week.

Shiites and Kurds have been haggling over the makeup of the government since a new National Assembly was elected Jan. 30. The parliament meets Wednesday.

The political deal calls for Jalal Talabani, a Kurdish leader, to be named president. Conservative Islamic Dawa Party leader Ibrahim al-Jaafari of the Shiite majority United Iraqi Alliance coalition would become prime minister.

"We're not interested in the government posts, we're more interested in Kurdistan and Iraq's interests," Talabani said in Sulaimaniyah, 160 miles northeast of Baghdad.

"We have made good progress. We have a common understanding with the United Iraqi Alliance that we should establish an Iraqi state based on the principles of federalism and respecting human and women's rights."

Ali al-Dabbagh of the clergy-backed alliance said he was optimistic a final deal would be reached before parliament meets Wednesday. But "if no agreement is reached, the first session of the national assembly will be held on Wednesday anyway," he said.

Outside the northern Iraqi city of Erbil, Kurdish leaders met Sunday to

work on final details on a coalition government in accordance with a deal reached earlier this month with the United Iraqi Alliance.

"The basic Kurdish demands are not about the Kurds only but the whole of Iraq, we are working for an Iraqi process — a coalition government that respects the constitution," said Interim Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, a Kurd.

Interim Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, also a Kurd, said a Kurdish delegation was to meet with the alliance again Monday before the deal is announced, emphasizing that a final agreement was close.

Talabani, Saleh and Zebari all headed to Baghdad from the north Monday.

The Kurds won 75 seats in the 275-member National Assembly. The alliance won 140 seats and needs Kurdish support to assemble the two-thirds majority to elect a president, who will then give a mandate to the prime minister.

Since 1991, Kurds enjoyed de facto independence, protected from Saddam Hussein's military by a U.S.-enforced no-fly zone. The Kurdish enclave since has been off-limits to the Iraqi army.

In violence Monday in northern Iraq, gunmen killed Hussam Hilal Sarsam, a cameraman for the Kurdish satellite channel KurdSat, witnesses in Mosul said.

Twelve miles south of Baghdad, a suicide car bomb exploded in Yousfiyah, said police Lt. Adnan Mohammed. The blast missed a convoy of sport utility vehicles, hitting a civilian vehicle instead and wounding four people.



Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, likely soon to be named Iraqi president, and other Kurdish leaders were converging on Baghdad for last-minute talks Monday with majority Shiites as both sides pressed to secure a deal to form a coalition government before the newly-elected parliament meets for the first time later this week.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Sunday, March 13, at least 1,513 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,153 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths. Italy has reported 20 deaths; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia have reported one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Dutch troops coming home from Iraq



A Dutch soldier, part of a group of about 150 soldiers who are the first to return after the Dutch mission ended in Iraq, hugs a woman Monday at Eindhoven airport, southern Netherlands. The Dutch, who sent 1,400 troops to Iraq's relatively peaceful Muthana province as part of the U.S.-led coalition, handed over formal control of their base to the British on March 7; troops are returning in a phased pullout.

Former Italian hostage undergoes operation

ROME — The Italian journalist and former hostage in Iraq who was wounded by U.S. gunfire in Baghdad underwent surgery on her shoulder Monday after the shooting, a Rome hospital said.

Giuliana Sgrana has been hospitalized in Rome's Celio military hospital since her return to Italy on March 5, a day after being released from a month's captivity and being mistakenly shot by U.S. troops on her way to Baghdad airport.

In Monday's operation, surgeons sutured muscles and tendons in her left shoulder, the hospital said in a bulletin. Sgrana is expected to be released in a few days, it said.

From The Associated Press

Joint Chiefs chairman in Iraq to see progress since election

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

MOSUL, Iraq — The new commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq said Monday he is encouraged at progress in giving Iraqis more control over their own security and economic future.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner told Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that a portion of Mosul airport would soon be turned over to the Iraqis for use as a civilian airport and an economic development zone.

"This is one of the engines of change," Bergner said.

Myers arrived in Mosul on Monday morning aboard an Air Force C-17 cargo plane from Cairo, Egypt, where he met Sunday with his Egyptian military counterparts and with U.S. military officers.

It was Myers' first visit to Iraq since the Jan. 30 elections.

He said before arriving that he hoped to see how much progress is being made in training and equipping Iraqi security forces.

Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq, is mainly Sunni Arab and Kurdish.

It has been a center of sectari-



Gen. Richard Myers

an strife and the site of assassinations of Iraqi security officials. A suicide bombing of a U.S. military mess tent on Dec. 21 killed 22 people, including 15 American service personnel.

Myers, who is the most senior American military officer, was accompanied on the flight to Mosul by his wife, Mary Jo Myers, who immediately departed for a visit elsewhere in the Persian Gulf.

Myers had said Sunday in Cairo that about 142,000 Iraqi security forces are now trained, including police.

He said the key is improving their capability to deal with the violent insurgency so that American forces eventually can be withdrawn.

Also in Egypt, Myers said the United States will resume participating in the Bright Star war games in Egypt this year after scaling back in 2001 due to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and canceling in 2003 because of the Iraq war.

The difficulty of providing substantial numbers of U.S. ground forces for joint exercises with allies while the fighting continues in Iraq is not unique to Bright Star.

It is one of the biggest multinational military exercises, with about 70,000 troops from about a dozen countries usually taking part.

Myers, on his first visit to Egypt in more than three years, met with Defense Minister Mohamed Hussein Tantawi and Lt. Gen. Hamdi Moustafa Weheba, who is Myers' counterpart as Egypt's chief of defense.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: The new Pat Tillman USO center at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, is scheduled to open in early April. Left: Modular housing units on Bagram Air Base. Most of the housing being built can accommodate two people per unit.



Permanent structures rise up in Bagram

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Whether you call it Bagram Air Base or Bagram airfield, the U.S. military facility in northeast Afghanistan is no longer just a glorified city of tents.

Slowly, but steadily, a slew of construction projects is providing troops with better housing and improved work areas as well as a handful of new shops for eating and entertainment.

"We've been in expeditionary mode, and now it's sustainable," said Air Force Col. Rita Meyer, commander of the 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, echoing the comments of her Army counterparts.

For airmen, soldiers and Marines on base, that means better living conditions, though no one is promising an overnight fix.

"In two to four years, we expect that everyone will be living in permanent housing," said Army Lt. Col. Jim Anderson, commander of Facility Engineering Team-17 and the de facto director of public works on base.

In fact, the foundation for the first brick-and-mortar structure designated for Army housing has been laid.

Its first occupants will likely be members of the 12th Aviation Brigade from Giebelstadt, Germany.

Capt. Paul Salinas said the two-story facilities would contain 38 bedrooms, with the possibility of a single soldier or two soldiers sharing a room.



Meyer



Anderson

More construction projects in works

Construction at the main U.S. base in Afghanistan has vastly improved troops' quality of life.

Here are some of the projects built in the last year, under way or planned:

■ The first brick-and-mortar Army housing is under construction. It has 38 bedrooms and outdoor plumbing.

■ Other such structures, and modular, metal, housing, are planned.

■ A chain fence now encircles the perimeter, replacing concertina wire.

■ Three dining facilities, two base/post exchanges, an Army hospital, offices and headquarter buildings have appeared in the last year.

■ Burger King, an Italian pizzeria, two coffee shops and a Thai restaurant are serving troops now.

■ Popeyes, Dairy Queen and Orange

Julius are scheduled to open in the next few months.

■ Besides the two exchanges, there are also a few shops selling local goods.

■ Facilities for continuing education, working out and staying in touch with those back home have also been built across the base in the last year.

■ Construction on the Pat Tillman Center, which will house the USO and a cafe for those coming in or departing, is underway.

■ An additional runway is planned so more fighter jets can use the air base.

■ Airmen volunteers built a post office, recreation room and library on the Air Force side of the base.

■ Modern shower/lavatory facilities are coming soon.

— Kent Harris

Floyd said the B-huts are an improvement on tents, but not as nice as the SEA Huts — which stands for Southeast Asia Huts — in places such as Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.

The Army's newer housing has options, metal modular housing and the brick-and-mortar buildings will gradually replace all of them.

Local nationals will build the brick-and-mortar buildings using materials they're familiar with, Floyd said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Tim Green, the top enlisted soldier in Bagram's base opera-

tions group, said he's seen a great deal of changes in his year in country.

"We went from tents to B-huts, tents to permanent structures for DFAcs (dining facilities) and the pavement," he said.

The pavement that Green referred to is a narrow strip of sidewalk that runs parallel to the main road on base: Disney Drive.

The road, which runs from the main gate in the south to the north perimeter, won't always be the only paved road on base, Floyd said.

He pointed to a road under construction that will follow the base perimeter.

Another major accomplishment is the perimeter itself, Floyd said.

There's now a chain fence with sensors along the entire perimeter, instead of just concertina wire that encircled it a year ago.

At present, all living quarters and the majority of base facilities are either located off Disney Drive or on small, dirt roads stretching from it.

On the Air Force side, Meyer said major improvements are being made on the existing runway, despite a constant, heavy influx of passengers and material.

New hangars are planned, but that wouldn't come until maintenance facilities and other offices are built.

Airmen also are living in crowded B-huts, she said.

"We are not living in the best accommodations in the region and we're going to get that changed," Meyer said.

Anderson said construction might seem slow to some, but progress is being made rapidly across the base.

"I'd like to see some pictures in five years."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris.k@mail.estrates.osd.mil



Green



Floyd

2nd GI in court for alleged drowning

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — The platoon leader accused of ordering soldiers to force two Iraqis into the Tigris River at gunpoint was set for his court-martial to begin Monday afternoon.

Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville is charged with involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice, conspiracy and making a false statement. The 25-year-old West Point graduate faces a maximum penalty of 29 years in military prison if convicted.

He is accused of ordering troops to push two curfew violators into the river near Samarra in early 2004, resulting in the drowning death of Zaidoun Hassan, 19.

But defense lawyers contend Zaidoun is still alive, and in December a judge granted a defense request to have the body exhumed to determine identification and cause of death. It's unclear if that exhumation has happened.

In January, Saville's co-defendant, Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, faced the same charges and was convicted of two counts of aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and assault committed by a soldier.

Perkins, however, was acquitted of manslaughter and making a false statement. The conspiracy charge was dismissed earlier in his military trial at Fort Hood.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A dump truck pours gravel that the grader will then level at the end of a ceremony that marked the beginning of the resurfacing of the Panjshir-Parwan road near Charikar, Afghanistan. The Provincial Reconstruction Team Parwan stationed at Bagram Air Base and the U.S. Agency for International Development were instrumental in getting the work on the road done.

Afghan road's repair begins with fanfare

U.S., local officials praise evidence of reconstruction in northern area

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

CHARIKAR, Afghanistan — A resurfaced road generally doesn't draw much attention in many parts of the world.

But in Afghanistan, where good roads are a rarity, a ceremony to announce a plan to upgrade about 45 miles between Panjshir and Parwan drew a crowd, featuring the country's president and vice president, the U.S. ambassador and the senior U.S. military commander in Afghanistan.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and a handful of local and national officials spoke under a pavilion that helped to keep away some of the intermittent rain Monday afternoon.

"Afghanistan has come a long way, but it still has a long way to go," said Khalilzad, who

will soon become the American ambassador to Iraq. "The reconstruction needs of the country are great. Especially given the destruction of the last 25 years."

The road — currently a mix of dirt along with a few rocks — will serve a number of purposes, Khalilzad said. He cited local industry, agriculture, tourism, coal mining, security and medical care as areas that would benefit.

The U.S. Agency for International Development is funding the project, which is set to start soon. The work will cost about \$2.7 million, according to the Associated Press.

Karzai, speaking in Pashto, received a

warm welcome from the crowd. He arrived and departed via a U.S. Chinook helicopter.

American and Afghan forces provided heavy security for the event both on the ground and in the air.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the senior American commander in Afghanistan, said the road would likely be used by the U.S. military on occasion, but said that wasn't the reason he was happy to see it going ahead.

"Everything we do to improve the economy for the Afghans is a benefit for us," he said. "This whole area was just devastated by the Soviets and the Taliban."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris.k@mail.ustrps.osd.mil



Karzai



Khalilzad

Murder or self-defense?

Marine faces charges in deaths of two Iraqis

BY JOHN DESANTIS
The (Wilmington, N.C.) Star-News

WILMINGTON, N.C. — When 2nd Lt. Ilario Pantano and other members of his Marine Corps infantry platoon arrived in Iraq early last

spring they were trained for combat, but also ready to wage a battle for the population's hearts and minds.

Now, the 33-year-old New York City native faces a different kind of battle, against the armed forces whose uniform he still proudly wears.

Pantano has officially been accused of premeditated murder — a capital charge — for shooting two alleged insurgents he took captive near the town of Mahmudiyyah, where his Marine infantry



Pantano

unit was based from March to October of 2004.

The Marine Corps is not talking, other than to confirm that a preliminary hearing will be held in April, citing concerns for Pantano's rights. Official documents say that on April 15, 2004, two men, Hamaady Kareem and Tahah Hanjil, were attempting to flee a house where combat materials were found in a Marine search.

During the ensuing encounter, the documents allege, Pantano broke military law by ordering the two detained men released from their handcuffs, ordering the only two fellow servicemen nearby to face away as Kareem and Hanjil searched their own car — which had already been searched — to ascertain that it was not booby trapped, shooting the two men in the back, then placing a sign atop the car that read "No better friend, no worse enemy."

Pantano and his Virginia-based attorney, Charles Gittins, say the killings were a legitimate act of self-defense.



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

A soldier carries his laundry Sunday morning at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, Iraq. Central Iraq received about seventh-tenths of an inch of rainfall on Thursday and Friday.

Sunday lives up to its name after rain

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — Sunday was a day of spring-cleaning and drying out for many soldiers throughout central Iraq after last week's downpours turned many bases into mud pits.

About seven-tenths of an inch of rain fell in Baghdad from Wednesday afternoon through Friday afternoon, which represented about 70 percent of the month's normal rainfall, according to Air Force Master Sgt. Shawn Pena of the 42nd Infantry Division's weather office in Tikrit.

"This is a significant amount of rain we received in a short period of time," Pena said late Friday afternoon, and the rain was still coming down.

Sunday's sunshine allowed soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warhorse to open their door, sweep the dirt out of their hooches, shake out their floor rugs and brush off the dried mud from their boots.

"As long as you have a change of boots, you won't have a problem," said Staff Sgt. Leonard Willis of West Palm Beach, Fla., and 203rd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

"I remembered it downpoured twice in Kuwait back in 2003," said Sgt. Kevin Wigger of Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Troop Battalion. "But nothing like this."

Wigger spent the day cleaning out his hooch and brushing off his boots.

"The 1st sergeant is coming [to inspect] at 15:30." E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon.c@mail.ustrps.osd.mil

Ex-Sanchez aide to take intelligence post

Appointment of Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast had been put on hold during Abu Ghraib probe

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Two of the top officers who served under Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez in Iraq — and were responsible for oversight of the units at Abu Ghraib detention facility at the time — have been given new high-profile jobs.

Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, who served as chief of intelligence for Sanchez, will take command of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., on Wednesday.

Cleared of wrongdoing by military investigators, Fast will be handed the colors of the service's main intelligence training schoolhouse from Gen. Kevin Byrnes, the commander of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command, according to Fort Huachuca spokesman Maj. Paul Karnaze.

The top post at the Intelligence Center has been vacant since Maj. Gen. James A. Marks left in June. Although Fast arrived as Marks was leaving with orders to take over the school, her assignment was put into a nine-month limbo as investigators looked into her role in Abu Ghraib scandal.

An investigation led by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger released in August criticized Fast, finding that she "failed to advise (Sanchez) properly on the directives and policies needed" for interrogations and for inadequately monitoring CIA operations at the detention facilities.

Since then, however, internal Army investigations have cleared Fast of any wrongdoing.

"She's maintained that she had a job to do and got on with it," Karnaze said. While he said Fast will offer a brief news conference after assuming command, he does not expect her to entertain questions about Abu Ghraib.

"Her focus is on the future now," he said. Meanwhile, Maj. Gen. Walter Wojdakowski, Sanchez's deputy commander in Iraq, has been given a position of greater responsibility as acting deputy commander of Army forces in Europe, directly under Gen. B.B. Bell, said Lt. Col. Jane Crichton,

a U.S. Army Europe spokesman. The position is traditionally a three-star assignment requiring Senate approval.

During his yearlong tour in Iraq, Wojdakowski was responsible for overseeing V Corps' "separate brigades," including the 800th Military Police Brigade and the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade. Both units were responsible for operations at Abu Ghraib and their commanders were harshly criticized for weak and ineffectual leadership that directly contributed to the several investigations, according to.

An investigation led by Lt. Gen. Anthony Jones concluded that Wojdakowski along with Sanchez "failed to ensure proper staff oversight of detention and interrogation operations," highlighting Wojdakowski's "direct oversight" of the two brigade commanders.

Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, commander of the 800th MP Brigade, who recently re-

ceived a letter of reprimand for leadership failures, said Wojdakowski once told her "I don't care if we're holding 15,000 innocent civilians! We're winning the war!" according to a sworn statement by Karpinski obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union through the Freedom of Information Act.

Both Wojdakowski and Sanchez — who remains commander of V Corps — are still under investigation.

Until recently Wojdakowski had remained Sanchez's deputy in Germany, after returning from Iraq. According to the Army General Officer Management Office in Washington, Wojdakowski had been reassigned, serving as "special assistant" to Bell, a job that does not otherwise exist at that level.

In real terms, Crichton said, Wojdakowski now works as Bell's acting deputy chief of staff. Traditionally either job is a career-enhancing position usually reserved for leaders being groomed for promotion.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: jon.anderson@stripes.osd.mil

3,000 1st AD soldiers train for deployment to Iraq in 2006

BY STEVE MRAZ

Stars and Stripes

Over the next three months, about 3,000 soldiers from V Corps' 1st Armored Division will deploy for exercises at Hohenfels and Grafenwohr training areas in southeast Germany to get soldiers ready for their next Iraq deployment.

This round of training was scheduled before 1st AD units returned from Iraq in July 2004. Exercise Iron Lightning will ready the units for their next trip downrange in early 2006, said Capt. Aaron Hatok, a 1st AD spokesman.

"This is what the commander considers to be the capstone of their retraining in coming back from Iraq," Hatok said. "This training puts everything together in an environment where they'll be able to conduct full spectrum operations when they're complete."

By full spectrum operations, Hatok refers to having units capable of conducting counter-insurgency operations as well as major combat operations.

About 3,000 1st AD troops recently returned from a similar two-month training exercise in Grafenwohr and Hohenfels.

The exercises encompass lessons that U.S. forces have learned in Iraq, such as having traditional field artillery regiments act as task forces performing counter-insurgency operations, Hatok said. Those counter-insurgency operations include raids and patrols.

And much like combat deployments, the action begins as soon as the units depart, said Maj. Michael Indovina, 1st AD spokesman.

"It's 'game on' the minute you leave the back gate," Indovina said.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, mainly composed of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment; and 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, recently completed Exercise Iron Lightning.

The Division Artillery Combat Team, primarily from the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment; and 1st Battal-



CHRISTOPHER STANIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A team of 2nd Brigade soldiers conducts a raid during their training exercise at the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

ion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, are training now.

E-mail Steve Mraz at: mraz@mailestripes.osd.mil

Detainees' transfer blocked

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has blocked the government from transferring 13 Yemenis from the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, until a hearing is held on concerns the detainees may be mistreated in another country.

The judge's ruling temporarily blocks any plans by the government to transfer the detainees to prisons in other countries.

Lawyers are worried the govern-

ment will try to move them to another country in order to "warehouse them in a prison, provide them with no legal process and, in effect, avoid the American court process altogether," said Marc Falkoff, an attorney for the detainees.

U.S. District Judge Rosemary Calvey's ruling Saturday on an emergency petition blocks any attempt to move the Yemenis until a hearing is held on their lawyers' request for notice if their clients are to be transferred.

FRONT PROTECTIVE BUMPER



The Ibis Tek Front Protective Bumper (FPB) attached to the front of the vehicle enables the HMMWV to easily push or smash objects in its path without any damage being done to the front end. The FPB has been impact tested to 35 MPH without damaging the HMMWV or the bumper. For those HMMWVs with a front extension kit to open the roof with a brush guard attached we will include a modification kit at no additional charge, just let us know.

Optional wire cutters easily mount to the FPB and are easily stored in the front compartments when not required. FPB accommodates the recovery winch if desired.

Email us a picture of you with our product and we'll send you a FREE Ibis Tek T-shirt

Ibis Tek CSA#CS-07F-5505R
www.ibistek.com

IN THE WORLD

China passes anti-secession legislation

New bill OKs use of force against Taiwan

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's parliament enacted a law Monday authorizing force to stop rival Taiwan from pursuing formal independence, sparking outrage on the self-governing island and warnings that the measure would fuel regional tensions.

The ceremonial National People's Congress passed the law despite U.S. appeals for restraint. It came a day after President Hu Jintao called on China's military to be ready for war and followed a 12.6 percent increase in the country's defense budget for 2005.

Premier Wen Jiabao said the mainland still wants to unite peacefully with the island and doesn't want to disrupt the status quo.

"It is not targeted at the people of Taiwan, nor is it a war bill," Wen said at a news conference. But he also warned outsiders not to get involved: "We do not wish to see foreign interference."

A Taiwanese government spokesman rejected the measure as a "serious provocation."

"It also brought emotional pain to the Taiwanese people, restricts Taiwan's freedom and democracy, and has a serious impact on security in the East-Asia

region," said Joseph Wu, chairman of the island's Mainland Affairs Council, which handles policy toward Beijing.

In a session broadcast on national television, the Chinese delegates burst into applause after the law was approved by a 2,896-0 vote, with two abstentions. The body usually votes overwhelmingly for Communist Party policies, but the emphatic result was meant to send a message of the intensity of Beijing's sentiment on the issue.

Taiwan and China split in 1949. Beijing has threatened repeatedly to attack if it tries to make its de facto independence permanent. The United States is Taiwan's biggest arms supplier and could be drawn into any conflict over the island.

A leading Taiwanese lawmaker criticized the measure as a "savage law."

It shows that China "feels futile and doesn't know how to deal with Taiwan's democracy and freedom," said Chen Chin-jun, a member of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party.

The law says China would "employ nonpeaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity." It said such steps could be taken if Taiwan declared formal independence, if "major incidents" occurred causing Taiwan to sepa-



A pro-Taiwan independence demonstrator displaying anti-China slogans sits outside the Legislature during a rally against China's anti-secession law on Monday in Taipei, Taiwan.

rate permanently from China, or if "possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted."

The law doesn't give details of what specific developments might trigger an attack. It adds no new threats or conditions, but it codifies the measures for authorizing military action.

Legislators said the law would send a message that Beijing's patience was wearing thin.

Russia, Pakistan among few to support new law

The Associated Press

TOKYO — China's threat Monday to oppose Taiwanese independence with military force triggered a call for peaceful dialogue from Japan and a discussion of Australia's treaty obligations should a war break out. But Russia and Pakistan supported Beijing's new legislation.

"I want the two sides to work hard toward a peaceful solution, so there will not be any negative impact," said Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, whose government recently declared a diplomatic resolution of the Taiwan dispute as a strategic objective with the United States.

An outbreak of hostilities would be a severe blow to stability in East Asia, possibly prompting a response from the United States — which has some 50,000 troops in Japan and 35,000 in South Korea — to defend Taiwan.

Such a conflict could pin top U.S. allies in the area such as Japan and Australia between treaty obligations to Washington and reluctance to alienate China, which is assuming a growing political and economic role in the region.

Russia on Monday reaffirmed Moscow's opposition to independence for Taiwan and said it considered the question of Taiwan an internal matter for China, a top strategic partner for Russia in Asia.

Not all Asian countries were worried about the move. Pakistan, a long time ally of China, supported the new law.

VOLVO'S SPECIAL MILITARY PRICING JUST GOT BETTER!

US MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED OUTSIDE THEIR HOME COUNTRY CAN NOW ENJOY SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS BY PURCHASING A NEW VOLVO UNDER THE VOLVO MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. IT OFFERS GREAT SAVINGS COMPARED WITH STATESIDE PRICES. THIS SUBSTANTIAL PRICE ADVANTAGE IS ONLY AVAILABLE WHILST STATIONED OUTSIDE THE US AND NOW IT HAS GOT EVEN BETTER!

FOR A LIMITED TIME ON NEW ORDERS VOLVO ARE OFFERING THE OPTIONAL PREMIUM PACKAGE FOR JUST \$999* SEE AN EXAMPLE OF OUR FANTASTIC SAVINGS:

2005 XC70 AWD
BASE PRICE \$31,850
PREMIUM PACKAGE \$999

POWER MOONROOF, LEATHER
 INTERIOR POWER SEATS, REAL
 WOOD INLAWS.

**DELIVERED PRICE TO
 US DEALER \$32,849**

PRICE COMPARISON

STATESIDE MSRP \$39,045, DEALER INVOICE \$36,494 - SAVING YOU
 AN INCREDIBLE \$6200 UNDER MSRP AND AN UNBELIEVABLE \$3600
 UNDER DEALER INVOICE!



VOLVO XC70 AWD

2005 S60 2.5 T AWD
BASE PRICE \$28,705
PREMIUM PACKAGE \$999

POWER MOONROOF, LEATHER
 INTERIOR POWER SEATS, REAL
 WOOD INLAWS.

**DELIVERED PRICE TO
 US DEALER \$29,704**

PRICE COMPARISON

STATESIDE MSRP \$35,670, DEALER INVOICE \$33,318 SAVING YOU
 AN INCREDIBLE \$6100 UNDER MSRP AND AN UNBELIEVABLE
 \$3600 UNDER DEALER INVOICE!



VOLVO S60 2.5T AWD

VOLVO MIDDLE EAST MILITARY SALES

TEL: + 973 3916 7505

EMAIL: volvo@mideastmil.com

WEB: <http://vcic.volvocars.com/militarysales>

S40 V50 S60 S60R S80 V70 V70R XC70 XC90 - ALL VOLVO 2005 MODELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE SPECIAL ORDER DELIVERY

Israel approves final route for barrier wall

BY MARK LAVIE
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has approved the final route of a barrier around Jerusalem that will include the largest Jewish settlement in the West Bank on the Israeli side, officials said Monday, prompting Palestinian complaints that Israel is endangering peace efforts.

The decision means the barrier will encompass lands claimed by the Palestinians for a future state, including traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, the intended Palestinian capital. The barrier also will include a chunk of the Palestinian town of Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem, to encompass a Jewish shrine, officials said.

Israel began building a separation barrier in the West Bank two years ago, saying its aim was to keep out Palestinian attackers.

Palestinians say Israel could have built the barrier on its own

territory if the only concern was security. They say the real intention was to grab West Bank land and draw a final border without waiting for a peace deal.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat warned that approval of the Jerusalem segment could destroy efforts to revive peace talks.

"This is a policy of dictation and not negotiation," Erekat said. "This prejudices and prejudices the outcome of permanent status negotiations."

The barrier — a complex of walls, fences, trenches, barbed wire and electronic devices — is expected to run about 425 miles.

One-third of the barrier has been completed.

In the West Bank city of Ramallah, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said after a meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas that the United Nations is establishing a register of damages to Palestinian property and



A demonstrator bangs with a rock on the gate of the Palestinian Authority Presidential compound as Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas meets U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan during a demonstration against Israel's separation barrier in Ramallah.

claims against Israel resulting from the barrier construction.

"We are establishing that register to be able in time to help with those claims," he said.

As Annan spoke, Palestinian policemen restrained hundreds of demonstrators at the main gate of the government compound.

The demonstrators carried

signs reading, "Resist the wall until its collapse," and "Bring down the wall," and scuffled with policemen, throwing rocks at the main gate of the compound.

Annan said the U.N. position on the barrier is clear. The General Assembly has passed a resolution against the barrier, and the U.N.'s world court said in an advisory ruling last year it was illegal and must be torn down.

The decision on the final route of the Jerusalem segment of the barrier was made late Sunday in a meeting of senior Cabinet ministers chaired by Sharon, a senior government official said on condition of anonymity.

Under the plan, prepared by the National Security Council, the West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim would be included on Israel's side of the barrier. Eleven crossings would be built into the barrier to allow access from the West Bank, and construction will be completed by year's end, the official said.

Afghan girls still forced into marriage

BY MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Bibi, 14, has never seen the father who wants to sell her into marriage with a stranger.

She hid when he sent police to her village home in northern Afghanistan a month ago. Her elder brother Kareem refused to hand her over and was dragged off to jail. But Bibi found sanctuary with a sympathetic relative in Kabul, where she now lives in fear her father will one day catch up to her.

The relative, Shahnoza, said the girl's father is not interested in finding a suitable mate for his daughter and only wants to get his hands on the dowry.

Bibi's story is far from unique. Despite the re-emergence of democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan, human rights officials say between 60 percent and 80 percent of marriages in the country are forced on women.

Girls and women are often wedded off for economic gain or to settle scores between feuding families, even though both practices run counter to civil and Islamic law. While marriages arranged by families are the norm in this conservative Muslim country, they are meant to have the consent of the bride and groom.

In Bibi's case the groom is a wealthy, older man looking for a second wife. Her relatives reckon he is willing to pay about \$7,000 for her — a small fortune in one of the world's poorest countries.

"My father does not care about



Fourteen-year-old Bibi, a shy ethnic-Pashtun Afghan girl, is seen earlier this month in Kabul, Afghanistan, where she is hiding from her father who wants to force her into marriage to an older man she doesn't know.

my life," said Bibi, who like many Afghans, goes by one name. "He never brought clothes or food. My family is my mother and Karenem."

The father, Rafur, could not be reached for comment.

Iran: Nuclear energy needed

BY TAREK AL-ISSAWI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran, accused by the United States of using a nuclear energy program as a front to produce weapons, has repeatedly said its program is for peaceful purposes only, and that it needs nuclear power to generate enough electricity to remain self-sufficient.

But the United States is disputing that claim, too, saying the Gulf nation does not need nuclear power for electricity because it has massive oil and gas reserves.

Iran gets set to host a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries this week.

In a region largely dependent on the West for vital military and industrial needs, energy-rich Iran has long stood out as a nearly self-sufficient nation that is exerting its efforts to produce nuclear energy despite stiff resistance from the international community.

Iran's total recoverable oil reserves exceed 130 billion barrels, equal to 12 percent of the world's oil. It has an oil production capaci-

Tehran issues nuke stamp

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's postal service issued a stamp Monday lauding the country's achievements in nuclear technology, state-run television reported.

President Mohammad Khatami oversaw the ceremony launching the new stamp during a visit to Iran's atomic energy organization.

The stamp features a picture of the Bushehr nuclear power plant emblazoned over a map of Iran, along with emblems of the country's atomic energy agency, a bunch of wheat and a book.

A lightning bolt meant to symbolize the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program — Iran contends it is pursuing technology for civilian use — is also featured on the stamp.

ty of 4.2 million barrels a day, making it the second biggest producer of oil in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Saudi Arabia.

It has also discovered new oil fields in recent years, including a new field announced last week — Ramin, which is said to hold 855 million barrels.

The U.S.-based Energy Information Administration estimated that in 2003, Iran produced 3.9 million barrels of oil a day, exported 2.5 million of those and locally consumed 1.4 million.

However, the country disputes the idea that those reserves mean it should not seek nuclear power.

"America has more oil than Iran, and Russia has more gas than Iran, and both of them have many nuclear power plants," said Asadollah Sabouri, deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

Iran's Nuclear Energy Council has said the country must produce 7,000 megawatts of electricity through nuclear power plants by 2021 to meet its increasing electricity demands. Iran's parliament has asked for the construction of 20 nuclear power plants.

Try Our New Flavour — Straight!

Break your Habit!

Try Golden Eagle Habit! Chew!

A refreshing alternative for smokeless tobacco users
100% Natural Blend

5 Great Flavors:
Garden of Eatin'®
Red Label • Luscious Mint
& NEW STRAIGHT!

gldneagle@grantspass.com
www.goldeneaglechew.com

3.2 Ghz
DVR 1024MB Ram
ATI 9600/128mb turbo
Wireless

\$175
per month

800HighTech.com

Beirut sees new anti-Syria protest drawing thousands

BY SAM F. GHATTAS

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hundreds of thousands of opposition demonstrators chanted "Freedom, sovereignty, independence" and unfurled a huge Lebanese flag in Beirut on Monday, the biggest protest yet in the opposition's duel of street rallies with supporters of the Damascus-backed government.

Crowds of men, women and children flooded Martyrs Square, spilling over into nearby streets, while more from across the country packed the roads into Beirut.

"We are coming to liberate our country. We are coming to demand the truth," said Fatma Trad, a veiled Sunni Muslim woman who traveled from the remote region of Dinniyeh in northern Lebanon to take part.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri exactly one month ago sparked the series of protests against Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon.

The throngs fell silent at 12:55 p.m. — the exact time Hariri was killed four weeks ago by a huge bomb in Beirut. The silence was broken only by church bells tolling and the flutter of flags.

Monday's protest easily topped a pro-government rally of hundreds of thousands of people last week by the Shiite Muslim militant group Hezbollah. That show of strength forced the opposition to try to regain its momentum.

Syria's military withdrawal continued Monday, with intelligence agents closing two offices in the



Lebanese opposition protesters wave national flags and portraits of slain former Premier Rafik Hariri on Monday in central Beirut, Lebanon.

northern towns of Amnuyun and Deir Ammar, on the coastal road between the port of Tripoli and the Syrian border.

The opposition is demanding a full Syrian withdrawal, resignations of Lebanese security chiefs and an international investigation into Hariri's Feb. 14 assassination.

A senior Lebanese army officer said Sunday that 4,000 Syrian soldiers — more than a quarter of those serving in Lebanon just a week ago — have been brought back to Syria.

Zeina Karam of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

'I never thought I'd meet my husband in a refugee camp'

Love blooms among tsunami survivors

BY MICHAEL CASEY

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Karmila Wati first noticed Samsoel Winda's smile when he checked her into a refugee camp after their homeland was lashed by Asia's deadly tsunami. Winda kept coming back to ensure Wati and her family were getting relief supplies and soon romance bloomed.

The couple — who both lost their homes and some relatives in the tsunami — married at a mosque on Monday and then held a party for fellow survivors under a leaky United Nations tarp in their survivors' camp.

The wedding ceremony was a first for the camp and brought rare smiles to the faces of people still traumatized by the Dec. 26 disaster that killed more than 125,000 in their home province of Aceh and left some 400,000 homeless.

"This is so unbelievable. I never thought I'd meet my husband in a refugee camp," said Wati, 21, sitting next to her husband in their tent. "It must mean that good things will come after all this tragedy."

The newlyweds wore traditional Acehese wedding clothes — Wati in a yellow dress with a golden, spiked crown while Winda, 25, wore a black and yellow coat, a green hat and a small sword known as a rengcong at his side.

For the 50 guests — mostly



Karmila Wati looks in a mirror before her wedding Monday at a refugee camp in Mata Le, Aceh Besar, Indonesia. The wedding ceremony was a first for the camp and brought rare smiles to the faces of people still traumatized by the Dec. 26 tsunami disaster.

dressed in donated T-shirts and rubber sandals — the party was a brief respite from their problems and showed a glimmer of normalcy in the badly damaged provincial capital of Banda Aceh.

Camp residents volunteered to help out.

"This ceremony helps us forget everything we have been through," said Dewi, 28, as she washed dishes from the party. It was gratifying to see someone happy for a day, said Dewi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

Dutch study: Most euthanasia of newborns unreported

The Associated Press

At least five mercy killings of newborns occur for every one reported to authorities in the Netherlands, doctors there reported just months after the first startling news of the controversial practice.

While still very rare, euthanizing terminally ill newborns is more common than first believed, according to Dutch doctors, and other experts say it also occurs, quietly, in other countries.

Since 1985, the Netherlands has allowed euthanasia for competent adults.

In 2002, doctors at University Medical Center Groningen helped create the so-called Groningen protocol, a list of standards for performing and reporting euthanasia of newborns with serious, incurable deformities. The aim was to encourage more reporting and discussion.

Two pediatricians at the hospital, Drs. Pieter J.J.

Sauer and Eduard Verhagen, report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine that 22 mercy killings of newborns who otherwise would have lingered in intensive care for years were reported to authorities from 1997 to 2004, about three each year. But national surveys of Dutch doctors have found 15 to 20 such cases a year, out of about 200,000 births.

Verhagen, who supports such euthanasia, said in an interview the doctors were allowed to review district attorneys' records on the 22 reported cases. None was prosecuted.

"We believe that all cases must be reported if the country is to prevent uncontrolled and unjustified euthanasia," the doctors wrote.

The Groningen protocol requires being sure that the newborn is suffering greatly with no hope of improvement, that the prognosis is certain and confirmed by at least one independent doctor, and that both parents give informed consent.

Validating newborn euthanasia

Since 1997, there have been 22 reported cases of euthanasia among Dutch newborns with a chance of survival but a hopeless prognosis of unbearable suffering. Doctors reported the following considerations in making the decision.

Consideration	Number of cases
Functional disability and severe pain with hopeless prognosis	22
Lack of self-sufficiency	18
Future inability to communicate	18
Expected prolonged dependency	17
Long life expectancy	13

*Life expectancy is long, the burden of other factors is considered greater

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

BMW M3



www.elitebmwcars.com

- Save Thousands on your new car purchase.
- Simple on-line ordering process.
- Representatives in the Middle East to serve you.
- Take delivery at your local dealership in the USA.
- Free 4 year maintenance plan on all state-side deliveries.
- Deliveries overseas can be arranged.
- All US Government I.D. Card holders receive a special discount.
- BMW Military Sales Program, serving the best since 1964.

Elite BMW Military Sales
Tel: +974-5618634
Fax: +974-4601637

E-mail: dorek@elitebmwsales.com

ELITE BMW CARS



IN THE STATES

Ex-Bush adviser Hughes tapped for State post

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Declaring the United States must do a "better job of engaging the Muslim world," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice introduced former presidential adviser Karen Hughes Monday as the Bush administration's choice for a State Department post designed to change Islamic perceptions about America.

"I'm eager to listen and to learn," said Hughes, who, pending confirmation by the Senate, would be undersecretary of state for public diplomacy with the rank of ambassador.

Rice said the United States must do much more to counter the "hateful propaganda" that is so common in the Islamic world. She said Hughes believes strongly that the United States "must mobilize young people around the world to shatter the mistrust of past grievances and

to foster a new spirit of tolerance and mutual respect."

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Dina Powell, an Egyptian-born former White House aide who is slated to be a top aide to Hughes.

Hughes, who for years has had a major voice in crafting President Bush's domestic message, is a former counselor to the president who left the White House in 2002 to move her family back to Texas.

She is also a former Texas television reporter. She has continued to advise the president from her home in Austin. Although not a diplomat by training, Hughes had a hand in several foreign policy initiatives during Bush's first term, including efforts to promote democracy and improve the lives of women and children in Afghanistan.

Hughes and Powell will focus on Bush's push to spread democracy in the Middle East, an effort that has gained momentum with recent elections in Iraq and the Palestinian territories.



Hughes

Answers sought after Wis. church shooting

JULIE WILLIAMS

The Associated Press

BROOKFIELD, Wis. — It was just another weekend service for churchgoers in this Milwaukee suburb when, without warning, they began to be gunned down by one of their own.

Now victims' relatives are struggling to keep their faith and find answers.

"This is a totally senseless thing," said Jeff Miller, whose 44-year-old brother, Gerald, died shielding an elderly woman who survived. "He was a great guy. He didn't deserve to die."

Terry Ratzmann, a churchgoer known for sharing homegrown vegetables with his neighbors, walked into the room and police said he shot 22 bullets from a 9 mm handgun within a minute.

None of those who knew him expected Ratzmann to be violent, though some said he had grappled with depression. Neighbors said he was quiet and devout, that he liked to tinker about his house and garden. He would even release the chipmunks caught in traps he set in his yard.

But Saturday, the Sabbath for the Living Church of God, Ratzmann turned on worshippers. When it was over, seven people, including the church's minister and his teenage son, were killed, and four others, including the minister's wife, were wounded. Ratzmann, 44, then shot himself, he sat slumped against the back wall with four rounds left in his gun, police said.

"He wasn't a dark guy. He was average Joe," said Sharon Colwell, a neighbor who knew Ratzmann for about a decade. "It's not like he ever pushed his beliefs on anyone else."

The 44-year-old computer technician lived with his mother and sister about two miles from the suburban Milwaukee hotel where police say he opened fire during service. Ratzmann regularly attended the gatherings.

Member Chandrarazier said on TV's "Good Morning America" that he had walked out of a recent sermon "sort of in a huff."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Monday the Feb. 26 sermon that upset Ratzmann had



AP

Amber Herman cries Sunday outside a hotel in Brookfield, Wis., where a gunman opened fire Saturday at a church service, killing seven people and himself.

made the point that people's problems are of their own making.

Although he left no suicide note and gave no explanation for the killings, investigators said Ratzmann was on the verge of losing his job. Agents who searched Ratzmann's home found three computers containing many encrypted files. They also found a rifle and ammunition.

Jackson's accuser back on stand

SANTA MARIA, Calif. — Michael Jackson's attorney challenged the credibility of the pop star's accuser Monday by cross-examining him about similarities between a statement he testified Jackson made and a statement the boy had attributed to his grandmother.

Cross-examination of the 15-year-old who claims Jackson molested him resumed after a three-day break in testimony.

Attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. recalled that the boy testified Thursday that Jackson told him that if men don't masturbate they might rape women. The attorney noted that the boy told sheriff's investigators in an interview that his grandmother had told him the same thing.

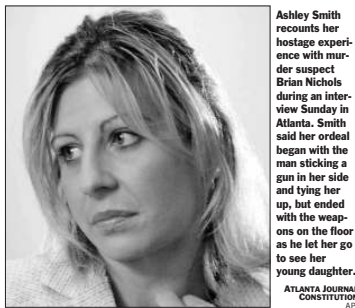
New Disney CEO named

LOS ANGELES — Michael Eisner, the longtime CEO of The Walt Disney Co., will step down a year earlier than expected, handing over the reins to Robert Iger and ending a tumultuous stint atop the entertainment giant.

Iger, 54, the firm's current president and chief operating officer, was named to succeed Eisner as chief executive. He will assume his new role Oct. 1, and will co-lead the company with Eisner during the transition, Disney's board said.

He inherits the company as it continues an earnings recovery, opens a new theme park in Hong Kong, enjoys a ratings boost at its ailing ABC network and builds on success of its dominant ESPN cable network.

From The Associated Press



Ashley Smith recounts her hostage experience with murder suspect Brian Nichols during an interview Sunday in Atlanta. Smith said her ordeal began with the man sticking a gun in her side and tying her up, but ended with the weapons on the floor as he let her go to see her young daughter.

ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION AP

Atlanta hostage recalls ordeal with suspected gunman

BY ELIOTT C. McLAUGHLIN

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — As the Fulton County Courthouse reopened Monday — nearly 72 hours after a judge, deputy and court stenographer were shot dead there Friday — accounts emerged detailing the ordeal of the woman whom the alleged gunman held hostage before she notified police of his whereabouts.

The woman, Ashley Smith, came forward Sunday saying Brian Nichols let her go after they bonded while discussing God, family, pancakes and the massive manhunt going on outside her apartment.

Authorities said the rampage started when Nichols overpowered a sheriff's deputy who was transporting Nichols for the resumption of his trial on rape and other charges.

Nichols could appear in court as early as Tuesday, authorities said.

Judge Rowland Barnes and his court stenographer, Julie Brandau, had been working Nichols' trial when they were killed. Sheriff's Sgt. Hoyt Teskey was killed outside the courthouse, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent David Wilhelm was killed later.

Smith was hailed as a hero for the way she handled herself after Nichols confronted her in the parking lot of her apartment when she returned from a store around 2 a.m. Saturday.

"She acted very calm and level-headed," said Gwinnett County Police Officer Darren Moloney.

"It was an absolutely best-case scenario that happened, a complete opposite of what you expected to happen."

Over the course of the night, Nichols untied Smith, and some of the fear lessened as they talked. Nichols told Smith he felt like "he was already dead," he Smith urged him to consider the fact that he was still alive a "miracle."

"I believe God brought him to my door," Smith said Sunday.

"You're here in my apartment for some reason," she told him, saying he might be destined to be caught and to spread the word of God to fellow prisoners.

After Smith left the apartment and called police, officers soon surrounded her suburban apartment complex and Nichols gave up peacefully, waving a white towel in surrender.

"I honestly think when I looked at him that he didn't want to do it anymore," Smith said. If he did not give up, she told him, "Lots more people are probably going get hurt and you're probably going to die."

Choking back tears Sunday, she said she told Nichols that her husband died four years ago and if he hurt her, her little girl wouldn't have a mother or father. Smith's attorney, Josh Archer, said her husband died in her arms after being stabbed. Smith's 5-year-old daughter was not at the apartment during the ordeal.

The two talked about the Bible and she handed him photos of her family. When morning came, Smith said, Nichols was "overwhelmed" when she made him pancakes with real butter. He told her he "just wanted some normalness to his life," she said.

When Nichols finally let Smith go to a planned meeting with her daughter, he said he wanted to stay at the apartment for a few more days.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Monday that a courthouse surveillance camera recorded Nichols' initial surprise attack on Deputy Cynthia Hall but that no one in the control center noticed the assault.

A video camera that is supposed to be monitored by two guards in a command post shows Nichols lunging at Hall and knocking her backward, according to a law enforcement official who saw the tape.



BTK profile on, off target

Developing pre-arrest theories is not an exact science

BY DANA STRONGIN
Knight Ridder/Tribune

WICHITA, Kan. — Criminal profilers. Wichita police. A psychic. BTK himself.

Since the serial killer first struck Wichita in 1974, a lot of people have shared theories about him: where he worked, his behaviors, his hobbies.

Now, after 31 years, a suspect has been arrested. Dennis Rader, charged with 10 BTK killings, has been in jail for two weeks.

Do the pre-arrest theories about BTK match up to the man charged with the crimes? In some ways, yes. Police and others thought

Rader

he might blend into the community. Rader, a Boy Scout leader and president of his church council, was a college-educated, working family man in Park City, Kan.

In other ways, no. Police said BTK had a lifetime fascination with trains. Rader's younger

brother Jeff said he was the train lover in the family, not Dennis.

The idea that BTK was a part of the community was dating back in the late '70s, said Richard LaMunyon, who was police chief from 1976 to 1989. It went against the general profile, the kind you see in made-for-TV movies: the serial killer as a loner, a man with no romantic prospects and an unsteady job history.

However, it wasn't exactly strange to suggest that BTK hung around Wichita State University, said Brian Withrow, an assistant professor of criminal justice at the university.

"They kept saying he was connected to WSU," he said. "Name five people in Wichita who ain't." Withrow said he couldn't think of a case in which a profile directly led to the apprehension of a person.

Although profiles draw on experts' opinions of them, scientists, it's a "very subjective" kind of science, he said.

The possibility that BTK could be someone's neighbor was why police released a detailed list of potential BTK traits late last year, Withrow said.

The November list was culled from the serial killer's communications, police said.

Police had no choice but to release the description and assume it was accurate, Withrow said.

"If they had decided to not release it, they would run the risk of when they did catch the guy, he would say, 'Look, I told you who I was. But you didn't release the information.'"

A Minneapolis, Minn., profiler said police should have released more information about BTK and the killings.

The sooner police release details about a homicide, the more likely they are to get useful tips from the public, said Pat Brown, who has assisted police elsewhere by creating criminal profiles.

"It's always kind of amusing to listen to individuals, especially people who aren't directly related to this investigation, make their forecast as to what kind of individual this is," LaMunyon said.

"They don't have all the facts."

Someday, we'll know more about BTK's background and what led him to kill, LaMunyon said. Any profiles developed during the investigation played only a small part in the case.

"You have to apply all of that knowledge — evidence, the victims — then you come up with a picture."

Study challenges 'adult time for adult crime' policies for youths

BY GREG SUKIENNIK
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Treating offenders under the age of 18 as adults in the criminal justice system makes it more likely they will re-offend when they emerge from prison, according to a national study of youthful offender laws.

The Coalition for Juvenile Justice, in a study titled "Childhood on Trial," said "adult time for adult crime" policies have failed. It hopes to restore the authority of juvenile court judges to determine if juveniles should be tried as adults and to hold the bound-

ary between childhood and adulthood at age 18.

The group said the judicial system's responsibilities are to give young offenders opportunities to make positive changes and set things right, while meting out punishment fairly.

"One way to do so is to ensure that juvenile offenders are provided with the rehabilitative services and resources generally available in the juvenile justice system — and to reserve the use of adult sanctions for those older, chronic juvenile offenders for whom the juvenile courts resources have been exercised and exhausted."

In 13 states, defendants over the age of 17 are sent into the adult criminal justice system for any offense.

The study said that in states with large numbers of youths in adult prisons, those youths are more likely to re-offend when they emerge from prison. It said teenagers in adult prisons are more vulnerable to adult criminals and are often mentored by powerful inmates, resulting in them being released as hardened, angry and possessing increased criminal skills.

The study was scheduled to be released Monday at Northeastern University.

Recent arrests surprise mobsters, NYPD

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's getting harder to tell the cops from the crooks around here.

Imagine the surprise of 32 mobsters arrested this week, including the head of the Gambino family, when they "discovered" their brother-in-firearms of the last two years was an undercover FBI agent doing an Al Pacino impersonation.

And imagine the disgust of New York police officials when a pair of retired detectives were found in an Italian restaurant on the Las Vegas strip, charged as mob hitmen responsible for eight mur-

ders and a failed plot to kill turncoat Sammy "The Bull" Gravano. The stunning mob stories broke on consecutive days in New York, still the center of the Mafia universe and home to five of its crime families. As details emerged, both tales assumed a Hollywood patina: the FBI agent was right out of "Donnie Brasco," while one of the two detectives had been in "Goodfellas."

The Brasco sequel came 24 years after FBI agent Joe Pistone, in the first case of its kind, infiltrated the Bonanno family. Like Pistone, the unidentified agent accepted by the once-mighty Gambino family was uniquely qualified.

More importantly to his associates in the Gambino family, the 50-year-old mobster was capable of delivering stolen watches, jewelry, plasma televisions. It wasn't until last Wednesday, when federal authorities arrested 32 of them, that the mobsters discovered his true affiliation.

"They were all shocked," said Matt Heron, the New York-based FBI official who ran the two-year undercover operation.

Although the agent remains unidentified, FBI officials described him as a law enforcement veteran and a family man, with undercover experience and unflinching instincts.



Judy Neal works on a will in her Cincinnati home in February. In the foreground is an example of an ethical will, a centuries-old practice of passing along values, beliefs and personal experiences to loved ones.

Ethical wills add human touch to estate planning

BY LISA CORNWELL
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Judy Neal hopes she instilled some of her values in her son. But just in case, she wrote it down.

"Try to see both sides of a story," she wrote in her ethical will. "Look beyond the surface and the obvious. It took me a while to learn this."

The use of ethical wills — a centuries-old practice of passing along beliefs, values and personal experiences to loved ones — has begun to re-emerge as catastrophic events underline the unpredictability of life and many see society as increasingly materialistic and transient.

The wills are not legally enforceable. But the founder of an elder law firm in Sarasota, Fla., said he suggests them to clients because they add more humanity to estate planning.

"When you focus strictly on transmitting wealth and property, it can make it a very cold and heartless process for everyone," said Ira Wiesner of Advocates in Aging.

Organizations such as the AARP, the American Society on Aging, and the Spiritual Eldering Institute, have included the topic in their magazines and conferences. Spiritual counselors and health care specialists include it in courses, and financial advisers and estate attorneys discuss ethical wills with clients.

"People often feel invincible until they see cataclysmic events like 9/11 or the tsunami and realize that no one knows what will happen tomorrow and they better

leave something to tell people who they were," said Karen Russell, founder and executive director of the Los Angeles-based National Gift Support Services Inc.

"Even soldiers in Iraq are realizing this and writing their own forms of ethical wills through letters telling their family what to remember about them if they don't make it home."

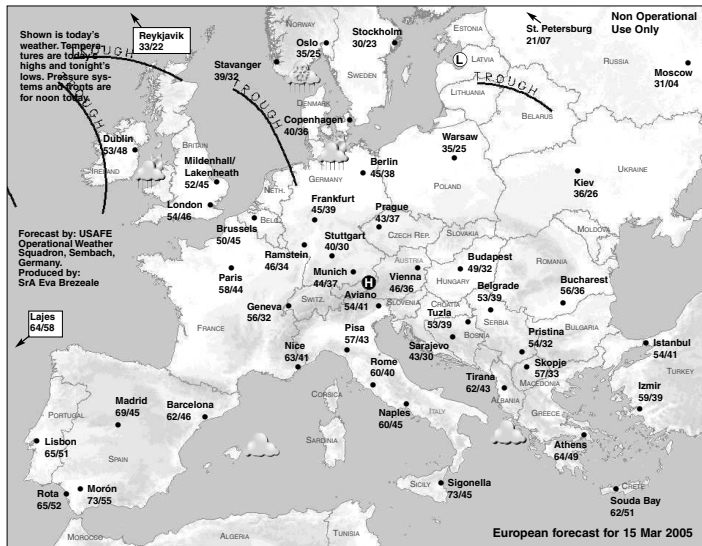
Dr. Barry Baines, associate medical director of Hospice of the Twin Cities, said the 75 hits or so daily on an ethical will Web site he began in 1999 jumped after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and now average about 800.

Baines, author of "Ethical Wills: Putting your Values on Paper," said many contacting him are baby boomers who realize their parents' generation is disappearing and that they also are aging.

"More and more of them are deciding that they want and need to leave behind more than just money or possessions," the Minneapolis doctor said.

While anyone can jot down their thoughts for family and friends, the formalized ethical wills offer a document more likely to be preserved through the years.

In Neal's case, her parents left no permanent record of their values and beliefs that could be passed on to future generations. "There are so many things I won't ever know about their thoughts and experiences," said Neal, 58. "I hope that my son has picked up some of my values and beliefs through the years, but I also want his children and their children to know who I was."



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid-40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower to mid-50s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the 40s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower 40s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Wednesday lows in the 40s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Wednesday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the mid-20s to lower 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the mid-40s to mid-50s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 50s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to mid-40s, upper 20s islands.

KEY: Sunny, Partly cloudy, Mostly cloudy, Rain, Thunderstorms, Rain, Rain, Snow, Cold front, Warm front, Trough, Occluded, Stationary, Low High

AFRICA

Capetown	HI	LO	Mogadishu	HI	LO
Dakar	78	63	Nairobi	81	73
Freeport	89	71	Rabat	69	57
Khartoum	88	72	Tripoli	66	40

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI	LO	Manila	HI	LO
Bahran	48	33	Mexico City	89	74
Beijing	51	33	Montreal	39	24
Bombay	86	67	Mytilene	74	50
Buenos Aires	66	50	Norfolk	69	52
Buenos Aires	66	50	Rio de Jan.	90	74
Calcutta	89	71	Sofia	54	34
Chennai	89	71	Sydney	62	47
Chennai	89	71	Tokyo	51	43

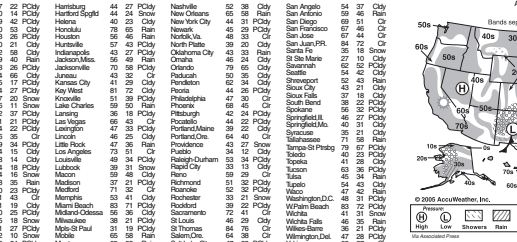
TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska	HI	LO	Ontario	HI	LO
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22
Alaska	46	35	Alaska	32	22

MIDEAST

Incirlik	HI	LO	Mogadishu	HI	LO
Baghdad	69	47	Nairobi	81	73
Tehran	58	41	Rabat	69	57
Kuwait City	71	54	Tripoli	66	40
Dhahran	72	55			
Dubai	85	64			
Zahedan	78	55			
Karachi	85	69			
Bombay	91	75			

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



Scheduled for **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES. Your Hometown Newspaper.

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES. Your Hometown Newspaper.

OPINION

Wars take turns, and reactions affect results

BY THEODORE L. GATCHEL
The Providence (R.I.) Journal

Like the tides, the fortunes of war tend to ebb and flow over the course of a conflict. How a nation deals with the setbacks that inevitably occur in war tells much about that nation's people, and whether they have what it takes to prevail over a determined enemy.

The Battle of the Bulge, in World War II, and the 1968 communist Tet offensive, in Vietnam, illustrate how two different generations of Americans dealt with such setbacks.

As Christmas 1944 approached in Europe, the Allies were generally optimistic. American forces had reached the German border, and speculation about how long the war would last was a popular pastime.

On the morning of Dec. 16, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme commander of the Western Allies in Europe, received a letter from British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery requesting permission to take Christmas leave. In the letter was a reminder from Montgomery of a bet made earlier that the war would be over by Christmas.

The front running through Belgium's Ardennes Forest was a particularly quiet one.

The quiet was shattered on the same day that Eisenhower received the letter by a German attack that drove deep enough into the Allied lines to produce the "bulge" that gave the resulting battle its name. The New York Times called the setback "the worst since the fall of the Philippines."

That characterization was no exaggeration. Overcoming the initial shock, the Allies eventually con-

tained the German attack and then defeated it. But doing so cost the Americans roughly 80,000 casualties, including 8,000 killed and 20,000 captured or missing.

Much of the public's attention became focused on the Belgian town of Bastogne, an important road junction that the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and other units held against heavy German pressure until relieved, on Dec. 26. When the American commander answered a German ultimatum to surrender with the terse reply "Nuts," Bastogne became a symbol of heroic resistance.

Perhaps as a result, Americans managed to maintain their faith in ultimate victory. The New York Times complained about the delayed release of news from the front, and noted command problems that had led the Germans achieve surprise — but it also cautioned Americans not to over-guess commanders on the spot while the battle continued.

The paper also raised the possibility that the German attack might even prove to be fortuitous by having offered the Allies the chance to inflict more damage on the Germans more quickly than would otherwise have been possible. When the fighting ended, the Americans had no doubt that the Allies had won a decisive victory.

Twenty-four years after the Battle of the Bulge, Americans reacted in a very different way to a surprise enemy attack that had some remarkable similarities to the German one of 1944.

As the Vietnamese New Year celebration, called Tet, approached in 1968, the overall situation appeared to be calm. The communists had agreed to a truce, and a large percentage of South Vietnamese soldiers were located in



GERARD F. FORKEN/Stars and Stripes

South Vietnamese troops help a wounded buddy in a street fight near the presidential palace in Saigon on Feb. 3, 1968, during the Tet Offensive.

take leave. Earlier, however, Gen. Earle Wheeler, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Detroit audience that although steady progress was being made in Vietnam, the communists might still try something "similar to the desperate effort of the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge."

On Jan. 31, 1968, the Viet Cong and their North Vietnamese allies did just what Wheeler had feared by launching a series of attacks on cities throughout Vietnam. Overcoming the shock of having been caught off guard, South Vietnamese and allied forces recovered and went on the offensive. Much of the world's attention became riveted on a group of U.S. Marines and Vietnamese rangers who were besieged in an isolated outpost near



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Two U.S. soldiers in the snow and dirt east of Bastogne, Belgium, man .50-caliber machine guns as they keep an eye out for German troops during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945.

the Laotian border named Khe Sanh.

Yet instead of being regarded as a heroic stand, as Bastogne had been, Khe Sanh was characterized by most of the media as a military disaster caused by bad judgment. Interminable comparisons were made to the 1954 French defeat at a similar outpost at Dien Bien Phu, and every effort was made to cast the battle in a bad light.

Second-guessing by the media was rampant and often wrong. Peter Braestrup, Saigon bureau chief for The Washington Post during Tet, later noted, "Rarely has contemporary crisis-journalism turned out, in retrospect, to have veered so widely from reality."

In reality, the communists suffered a decisive defeat. They failed to achieve any of their military or

political goals, and the fighting destroyed whatever remained of the Viet Cong — forcing the communists to rely increasingly on regular forces from North Vietnam.

But despite that reality, many Americans came to see Tet as a defeat that produced a corresponding loss of support for the war. The cause for that misperception remains the subject of debate, but it raises an important question for today.

When a setback occurs in the war on terrorism — and such a setback is almost inevitable — will Americans react as they did in 1944, or as they did in 1968?

Marine Col. Theodore L. Gatchel (retired) is a military historian and professor of operations at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. The views here are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the college, the Navy or the Defense Department.

Congress must ensure bill isn't morally bankrupt

BY DALE MCFEATERS

Scraps Howard

The bankruptcy bill that just passed the Senate and is assured of House passage is being described as "the most sweeping" and "most significant change" in bankruptcy law in 77 years and as a political victory for President Bush.

A political victory for Bush and the credit-card and banking industries, yes. But as for "sweeping" and "significant," only time will tell.

A preliminary glance at the final product suggests that it is considerably more modest than "sweeping." And how controversial could a measure be that passed the fractious Senate 74-25? It would affect, according to bankruptcy experts, somewhere between 30,000 and 210,000 people a year, largely by forcing them to opt for Chapter 13 bankruptcy, where some repayment is required, rather than Chapter 7, which erases debts altogether. And it does underscore a fundamental commercial principle that good-faith loans should be repaid.

The terms of the bill are hardly Dickensian. In essence, bankruptcy filers, with incomes above their state's median income and with the wherewithal that a judge determines would allow them to repay \$100 a

month over five years — a total of \$6,000 — would have to file under Chapter 13.

The bill also tightens a loophole that allowed potential bankrupts to shield assets by buying extravagant homes in states like Florida and Texas. The "homestead exemption" has been tightened to \$125,000 for property bought within 30 months of filing.

The bill shields retirement benefits up to \$1 million, but it also ordains that child sup-

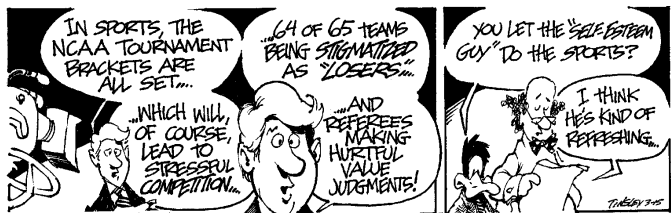
port, alimony, student loans and most tax obligations cannot be wiped out by filing for bankruptcy.

There is a large loophole for residents of states that sanction asset-protection trusts, shields trusted from the bankruptcy laws set up by people who have some expectation of being sued, such as doctors, but increasingly by executives wary of the new corporate liability laws. ...

Once having made this bankruptcy bill law, Congress has an obligation of its own. Lawmakers must be vigilant to see that the act is not an insurance policy for reckless lenders. And while Congress can't do much about (some causes of bankruptcy, such as) divorce or job loss, it can try to ensure that (another cause), severe illness, is not an automatic economic catastrophe for low- and middle-income families.

Mallard Fillmore

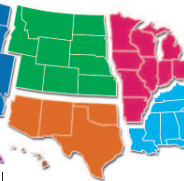
BY BRUCE TINSLEY



©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Special treatment

AR LITTLE ROCK — Patients traveling to Arkansas for medical treatment will receive assistance under a program announced at the Little Rock National Airport. The patients will be provided with language translation if they need it, as well as help with baggage and transportation to hotels and hospitals, officials said.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Kindergarten optional

NH CONCORD — The state Board of Education dropped a plan to require all school districts to offer kindergarten by 2007. Lawmakers said the rule would usurp their authority and force a state program on local districts. New Hampshire is the last state without universal kindergarten; about 15 communities don't offer it.

Limiting cold medicine

MN ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Legislature unanimously passed a bill restricting the sale of cold medicines containing ingredients used to make methamphetamine.

The bill would require Sudafed and Actifed to be kept behind pharmacy counters.

Customers would have to sign for the drugs and would be allowed to buy only two packages at a time.

Fishing-season dispute

FL MADEIRA BEACH — Friends and family of a missing commercial fisherman say a two-week gap between the seasons for amberjack and grouper created an atmosphere in which fishermen felt a need to take more risks.

Friends say the restrictions cost Michael Costello and a crewman their lives. Restrictions are aimed at replenishing dwindling stocks in the Gulf of Mexico.

Obscenity case dropped

KS ABILENE — An obscenity case brought against the Lions' Den Adult Superstore has been dismissed for technical reasons. A Dickinson County grand jury returned a 29-count indictment alleging the store promoted obscenity, but a judge ruled the petition was improperly filled out.

New bishop named

VT BURLINGTON — Monsignor Salvatore Matano, a longtime Rhode Island priest who has worked the last four years at the Vatican's Washington office, was selected by Pope John Paul II to be Vermont's new bishop. He will take over in August.

Budget unbalanced

WA OLYMPIA — Some state lawmakers want to borrow against future payments from a tobacco settlement to help balance the budget. Gov. Christine Gregoire, who negotiated the deal when she was attorney general, is against that.

The settlement is expected to bring the state \$4 billion over the next 25 years for health services.

Boaters sue state

HI HONOLULU — An organization of boaters who faced eviction from the Ala Wai Harbor

is suing the state.

The mariners who live aboard their vessels allege they were improperly evicted from the short-term boat slips at the harbor under a proposed deal between the state and the Waikiki Yacht Club.

The group calls itself the "Displaced Boaters of Ala Wai Harbor."

Group spokesman Jai Lohmeyer said he knew the boat slips were not permanent, but he believes the state should have given more notice to move.

In February, the state gave about a dozen boaters three days to vacate their slips. Eight of the boaters have sued seeking to stay put, and a judge issued a preliminary injunction stopping the evictions until the case is resolved.

City opens rat school

NY NEW YORK — The city has a new weapon in its never-ending battle against rats: a federally funded institute to teach the craft of rodent eradication.

Plans for the Rodent Integrated Pest Control Academy were announced in a hearing before the City Council's health committee. The academy will train exterminators from the Health Department and other city agencies, said Edgar Butts, an assistant Health Department commissioner.

A three-year, \$600,000 grant



Nap time

One of Jeff King's dogs takes a rest during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race at the Grayling, Alaska, checkpoint.

from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will fund the school, for which a coordinator has yet to be appointed. Among the skills taught will be the proper placement of rat poison.

Shaken baby bill

TX HOUSTON — The deaths of four Texas infants within one week could intensify efforts to approve legislation to educate parents about shaken baby syndrome.

Police in Houston are investigating the deaths of an 8-month-old girl, a 5-month-old boy and a 7-month-old boy. Investigators think their injuries may stem from being shaken aggressively.

In Austin, the father of a 5-month-old boy who died was arrested after being accused of shaking the child to death.

"I think we are going to continue, unfortunately, to have this problem," said state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., D-Brownsville. "But the more we educate people, the more we train people to do the right thing with their child as they leave the hospital, obviously the better it will be."

Jailer plays a prank

AR PARAGOULD — A jailer gave a laxative to an inmate who had requested cold medicine, then taunted the man as he suffered severe diarrhea, authorities said.

Johnnie Dallas Pruett, 27, was fired and charged with battery in the March 1 incident involving 19-year-old Darryl R. Bartlett.

Sheriff's Capt. Jamie Martin said after Bartlett asked for cold medicine, Pruett brought him three pink pills and a cup of water. The inmate took the pills, and Pruett began laughing and showed him a box of over-the-counter laxative pills.

Bartlett said that after 90 minutes, he developed severe stomach pains, vomited and had severe diarrhea. He said Pruett taunted him throughout the night and asked if he needed a diaper.

Film scene nearly deadly

GA SAVANNAH — A college student was seriously injured while acting out a hanging for a film project.

Daryl Goins and other students were making a movie for class at his home. The script had class at his home. The script had class at his home. The script had class at his home.

"There was a suicide scene at the end, and he changed the technique," Geoffrey Jowett, dean of students for Savannah College of Art and Design, told the Savannah Morning News. "It was a hanging, an accident based on the stunt."

Details were sketchy, but during the scene Goins somehow hit his head. Jowett said other students gave him CPR. He was hospitalized in serious condition.

Police have the video and are investigating. The school is reviewing whether to pursue disciplinary action.

Goins was enrolled in an Introduction to Video class. Students at the college are required to take a safety course before filming, sign a contract confining them to have read all safety regulations and have scripts approved by a faculty member.



Becoming an American

Nguyen Ngo, of Vietnam, awaits the start of a swearing-in ceremony at the Bush presidential library in College Station, Texas. Nearly 50 U.S. servicemen were sworn in as U.S. citizens.



Colorful block party

Wil Flores, right, and Belisario Loza start at one of the many vendors at the annual "Calle Ocho" block party in the Little Havana area of Miami. The event marks the end of the carnival festivities.



A fine, feathered friend

Paige, a 10-year-old bald eagle, poses for visitors, in background from left, Debbie LaFreniere and Sharon Bostrom at the Florida Audubon Birds of Prey Center in Maitland, Fla. The center is celebrating its 25th year with an open house.



Fire-breather Daniel Echeverria, 44, poses next to his fire-breathing motorcycle in Daytona Beach, Fla. Echeverria said he spent three years building the bike named Excalibur by hand in his barn in Argentina. Echeverria shipped his creation to Florida for Bike Week.



Luck o' the Irish Melanie Weimer of Scottdale, Pa., dresses as a leprechaun while marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Pittsburgh.



Enjoying spring break Crystal Stevenson, 22, from the University of Indiana, relaxes on the beach at South Padre Island, Texas, while Tony Bickenstaff, 24, from Eastern Illinois University, applies suntan lotion during the annual college spring break.

Guilty plea in murder

NJ CAMDEN — A second man pleaded guilty to the murder of a woman who was abducted from a park-and-ride lot on her way home from work in 2001. Marcus Toliver, 27, admitted killing Christine Eberle, 27, an accountant who lived in Washington Township and worked in Philadelphia. He agreed to the same 43-year prison sentence handed by Judge Thomas, 26, who pleaded guilty in January.

More training for nurses

AR LITTLE ROCK — University of Arkansas athletic director Frank Broyles persuaded legislators to back a bill that would expand training for certified nurses aides in caring for Alzheimer's patients. The Senate committee endorsed the measure, which has passed in the House. Broyles told the panel of his grief during the years he cared for his wife, Barbara, who died last fall after battling Alzheimer's.

Hospital closing

PA PHILADELPHIA — Women's Medical Hospital in Philadelphia is closing its doors. There isn't enough patient revenue to support and maintain the operation of the 50-bed acute-care facility, said Dr. Nancy Pickering, chief executive officer. In recent years, the 500 employees endured hospital name changes, cutbacks, the collapse of the Allegheny Health System in 1998 and the threatened closure by the former owner, Tenet Healthcare.

Art law repealed

SD PIERRE — A 16-year-old law requiring state funding for works of art in new public buildings and those being remodeled will be repealed under legislation signed by Gov. Mike Rounds. The 1989 law said the Legislature must set aside an art allowance equal to 1 percent of the cost of those projects. The stipulation was never followed.

End of streetcar line?

WA SEATTLE — The city may shut down its waterfront streetcar line so the Seattle Art Museum can build a sculpture park at the north end of the line where its maintenance barn is located. The streetcar is a popular tourist attraction that carries 400,000 people a year. It runs between Myrtle Edwards Park and Pioneer Square.

City Council recall

OK McALESTER — Petitions seeking the recall of City Council members Michael Dawkins and Louis Snitherman were turned in to the city clerk. They served on the council when contracts and budgets with leave buyback provisions for former City Manager Randy Green were approved. Green received \$579,500 for unused leave over a five-year period. The FBI is investigating the case.

Backup budget

TN NASHVILLE — A backup budget plan released by Gov. Phil Bredesen would either slash education spending by \$268 million or end pharmacy benefits for people in the state public health care program. The alternative budget is on the table in case Bredesen's primary plan, which presupposes savings through cuts in the TennCare program, is held up in court.

Wrong number

WI MADISON — When the state's Division of Motor Vehicles sent notices to 25,000 motorists to renew their registration, they made a tiny mistake.

The telephone number printed on the postcards was one digit off and instead connected callers to "the nation's most informative psychic connection service, helping you with love, money, health and romantic encounters."

The Division of Motor Vehicles spent \$1,500 sending letters to truckers after someone called about the typo, said Jane Zarada, director of the state Bureau of Vehicle Services.

Golden Gate suicides

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A proposal to study a suicide barrier on the Golden Gate Bridge is expected to get the go-ahead despite mixed reactions from the public and serious questions over finances.

The 19 bridge district directors will be asked to take the first step and commit \$2 million toward environmental studies and preliminary design work.

In addition to that \$2 million, \$15 million to \$25 million will be needed to build a barrier, so the money question will probably be a major part of the discussion.

An estimated 1,300 people have jumped from the bridge to their deaths since it was built in 1937, giving the West's signature span additional renown as the top suicide landmark in the world.

Fortunate to be alive

TN TOWNSEND — Four college freshmen got on a spring-break excursion to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park said that they felt lucky to be alive after they were snowed in at a shelter on the Appalachian Trail.

Matthew Schultz, 19, Ivan Saldarriaga, 19, Ryan McCall, 19, and Bryan Hendrick, 19, were rescued by park rangers and a National Guard helicopter after spending two wet, freezing nights huddled in a trail shelter.

Schultz was airlifted to the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville as a precautionary measure after falling victim to hypothermia. His three companions walked off the trail a few hours later with words of warning for anyone planning a trip into the mountains.

"We weren't prepared," Hendrick said. "We may have done a few things right, but we did a lot of things wrong. We were lucky."

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

No strings attached

Even with no guitar, British rock band Keane is winning devoted fans on both sides of the pond

BY ROSS RAIHALA

Knight Rider Newspapers

The British trio Keane has experienced the sort of year most young bands would kill for, selling millions of records in Europe, winning two Brit Awards (England's answer to the Grammys) and performing to sellout crowds around the world.

But what made the group, which seems set to reach Coldplay-like heights of fame, really nervous? Appearing on "Saturday Night Live" last month alongside guest host Paris Hilton.

"It was scary, probably the most nerve-wracking thing we've had to do," said lead singer Tom Chaplin during a phone interview from Boston.

"After a year of touring, we're used to playing shows. But with something like that, the expectation is so great. The show is an institution in the States."

Keane lived up to the challenge and won over a whole new audience of fans in the process, playing their insanely melodic singles "Everybody's Changing" and "Somewhere Only We Know," a song that got its first blush of exposure in a Victoria's Secret commercial.

Soon after the "SNL" performance, Keane's debut disc, "Hopes and Fears," re-entered the Billboard Top 100, with sales headed toward the million mark.

But what about the really important stuff? What's Paris Hilton like?

"She was cool," said Chaplin. "Weirdly enough, she seemed a lot more interested and down to earth than she comes across."

It's a polite, mannered answer from a polite, mannered band. "Hopes and Fears" is filled with bright choruses, hummable melodies and an overall sense of nice that has earned Keane plenty of suspicious glances from rock's credibility police.

And then there's Keane's lead guitarist. Or, more ac-

curately, the lack of one.

The band formed in 1997 and kicked around unsuccessfully for years. In 2002, they lost their guitar player and figured they'd have a go without a six-string. "It really was incredibly liberating," Chaplin said. "It forced us to try and change things up a bit. And we've found we can get the songs across in a much more clear way that suits the feel of the music much better."

Tim Rice-Oxley's pianos and synthesizers form the backbone of Keane's music, with live drummer Richard Hughes keeping the songs rooted in rock, rather than dance, music. The pared-back instrumentation also focuses attention on Chaplin's angelic, lilting vocals.

"Every guitar sound has been done to death," Chaplin said. "The piano is a blank canvas. And we've been experimenting with pedals and amps to mess things up a bit. It's really exciting."

Tom Chaplin

Lead singer

has already connected with American audiences, they're not content to remain a passing fancy in this country.

"Hopes and Fears" produced four hit singles in England, and they're, ahem, keen to replicate that success here. Chaplin said his band plans to spend much of the year touring the States.

"Whatever band you talk about, like U2 or Radiohead, there's an electricity about what they do," Chaplin said.

"They have songs that really connect with people and give them a true emotional experience. We aspire to that, and we're willing to put in the time."

"Every guitar sound has been done to death. The piano is a blank canvas. And we've been experimenting with pedals and amps to mess things up a bit. It's really exciting."

ABACA PRESS/ART

British rock group Keane has made an impact on the American music charts after appearing on "Saturday Night Live." Lead singer Tom Chaplin, right, said appearing on "SNL" was "nerve-wracking."

Swank fights New Zealand customs fine

Hilary Swank, the Oscar-winning star of fight flick "Million Dollar Baby," is in a tussle with New Zealand authorities over a \$150 fine for bringing fruit into the country, local media reported Sunday.

Swank was fined in January for failing to declare an apple and an orange in her luggage when she arrived at Auckland International Airport, The Sunday Star-Times newspaper reported.

"It's a pretty standard practice to issue an instant fine for a biosecurity risk," said Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry spokesman William Minchin.

Thousands of visitors arriving in New Zealand each year are fined on the spot for not declaring products such as fruit, which cannot be imported into New Zealand, and hundreds contest the fines, Minchin said.

New Zealand is largely free of pests, which cause billions of dollars in damage to crops and livestock in other parts of the world and has strict quarantine guidelines.

Swank has instructed lawyers to appear in court next week to contest the fine, the paper reported.



Swank

Sampras, wife expecting second child

Former tennis star Pete Sampras and his wife are expecting a second child.

Sampras and actress Bridgette Wilson-Sampras are due to have the child this fall, their publicist, Deborah Grimes, said in a statement.

The couple married in September 2000. Their son, Christian Sampras, is 2.

In 1990, Sampras beat rival Andre Agassi in the final to become, at 19, the youngest champion in tournament history.

Sampras retired from the tournament circuit after beating Agassi at the 2002 U.S. Open. Then 31, Sampras became the tournament's oldest winner since 1970.

Brooks takes care of his fan

One Garth Brooks fan who spent \$1,200 to buy a guitar signed by the country singer — only to find out it was a fake — has received an authentic signature.

Toby Bradley, 34, a long-haul trucker, put the guitar up for auction on eBay in January hoping to raise \$50,000 for victims of the South Asian tsunami.

Brooks' attorney saw the eBay listing and asked Bradley to turn it to him so the signature could be verified. It turned out to be fake, but Brooks signed the guitar and

sent it back to Bradley.

"I appreciate that they made it authentic," Bradley said in a telephone interview with the Yakima Herald-Republic.

He said he was disappointed that he had not talked directly to Brooks, but still thinks Brooks is the greatest entertainer of all time.

Perlman to pay fine for contribution

Actress Rhea Perlman has agreed to a fine against the DeVito Family Trust for failing to file a major donor report on a \$10,000 contribution to Californians for Schwarzenegger in 2003.

The state's Fair Political Practices Commission said it would fine the trust \$400 for failing to disclose political donations during the 2003 gubernatorial recall campaign that put Arnold Schwarzenegger in office.

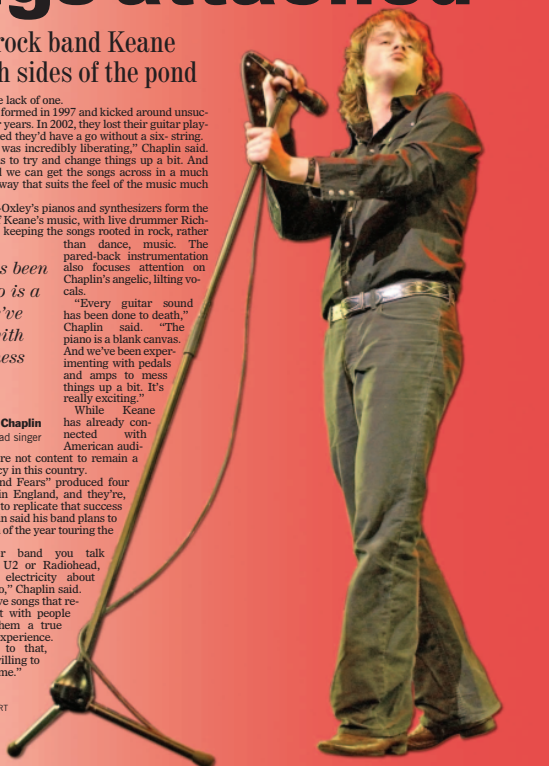
Perlman, who is married to actor and director Danny DeVito, agreed to the fine in January on behalf of the trust.

Perlman could not be reached for comment.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Perlman



X-ray system holds promise for shuttle safety

BY PHIL LONG

Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI — Two University of Florida researchers were working on ways to use their X-ray system to find cracks and corrosion in airplanes and find abandoned land mines when a NASA contractor asked them if the device might help make space shuttles safer.

They tinkered with the machine and decided it could.

Ed Dugan, a nuclear engineering professor, and Alan Jacobs, who retired from the same job 18 months ago, patented an X-ray imaging process that can show tiny hidden defects in the foam insulation that covers the giant, orange external shuttle fuel tank.

A suitcase-sized chunk of that foam broke off of the tank attached to the shuttle Columbia on Jan. 16, 2003, gouging a hole

Machine can detect defects in foam insulation

in the leading edge of the orbiter's wing as it climbed into space.

Sixteen days later, as Columbia streaked through the skies 40 miles above Texas on its way home, super-hot gases poured into the hole, destroying the wing and causing the ship to break up. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

Dugan and Jacobs hope their work will help prevent future disasters.

"That's a very satisfying accomplishment," said Dugan, 58. "Any time you can develop something that can save lives, it is exciting."

"Anybody in my generation ... would want to be a part of the safe exploration of space," added Jacobs, 72.

Dugan and Jacobs work with "backscatter-

ter" X-rays, developed for use when it's impossible to place film behind an object — as with the shuttle tanks.

In backscatter, photons are scattered or reflected from the target and recorded on sensors. Dugan and Jacobs developed a computer-driven process that can locate even the smallest of voids and tiny cracks in composite material and metal on airplanes.

The researchers had trained their technology on abandoned land mines worldwide. In tests sponsored by the Army, the process was able to clearly distinguish land mines from other buried objects by revealing small empty spaces unique to buried mines.

Lockheed Martin Corp. learned of Dugan and Jacobs' work on land mines

and wondered if it might apply to shuttle foam, explained Warren Ussery, a team leader at Lockheed Martin's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where the external tanks are manufactured.

Most of the foam on the tanks is about an inch thick and is applied by robots. Dugan and Jacobs' system is used on smaller areas of the tanks with thicker foam that's applied manually.

Lockheed Martin also examines those areas with a similar process called tetraherz imaging, using very high-frequency radio waves that reflect off the aluminum tank. Examination with both machines showed no defects in the foam for the shuttle Discovery, which is tentatively scheduled for launch between May 15 and June 3. It will be the first shuttle to return to flight since Columbia.

Lockheed Martin has bought four of the X-ray machines, and NASA has bought one.



Nicole Hines of Chariton, Iowa, pats the head of her daughter, Amber Vairo, in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at University Hospitals on March 3 in Iowa City, Iowa.

Smallest infant to undergo robotic surgery recovering

BY TODD DVORAK

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Amber Vairo has grown two inches and gained nearly a pound, and the three tiny scars on her belly have all but vanished — along with any doubts she'd survive a complex surgery to fix a life-threatening condition.

Last month, at just 5.6-pounds and six days after birth, Amber became the smallest patient in the world to undergo robotic surgery of any kind, according to her doctors at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics.

She was born with a hole in her diaphragm, the abdominal muscle that is critical to breathing and forms a wall between the chest and abdomen.

The condition, called congenital diaphragmatic hernia, can be fatal because the hole allows the intestines to migrate into the chest, putting pressure on the heart, lungs and spleen that can stunt organ growth or shut them down altogether.

"All signs are that she is recovering and will be just fine," said Amber's mother, Nicole Hines, who brought the infant home for the first time last week.

"She is gaining about an ounce a day and eating every two or three hours. It was all very stressful for a while. But I'm very glad with the way things went."

So are doctors.

The little girl suffered from a particular type of congenital diaphragmatic hernia, according to Dr. John Meehan, who led Amber's surgical team. Known as a Bochdalek hernia, it affects about one in 3,000 babies and has a 25 percent mortality rate, Meehan said.

Other children's hospitals have used robotics to fix diaphragm hernias, but those cases involved older patients with a different kind of hernia, hospital officials said.

Typically, surgeons use laparoscopic methods in such cases, extending their reach through tiny incisions with thin, long rods.

But the rods are inflexible and allow little range of motion.

In Amber's operation, surgeons made three incisions, each no wider than the diameter of a ballpoint pen. Two provided a pathway for the robotic arms, the third for a pair of cameras providing a three-dimensional view.

"Was this life saving? Yes," Meehan said. "But I think that is also interesting is this is a new way of treating a severe medical problem in newborns. We didn't invent a new operation here, but just used a different technique to get it done."

Micro-radios, glue help scientist keep track of devastating crickets

BY VALERIE BAUMAN

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Armed with a glue gun and radio transmitters the size of a penny, a University of North Carolina scientist is trying to stop mass insect migrations that devastate ranches in the mountain West.

Mormon crickets, also known as flightless katydids, travel in massive packs, devouring all surrounding terrain as they move.

Packs of the bugs can cover more than a mile a day and devastate crops.

Scientists are trying to identify patterns the crickets follow so they can kill them or divert their paths with small distributions of pesticide, rather than the blanket applications now used against the pests.

Patrick D. Lorch, a postdoctoral fellow in biology at UNC-Chapel Hill, is among three scientists studying the crickets' travels.

The trio — which also includes Gregory A. Sword, a research ecologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service, and Darryl T. Gwynne, a biology professor at the University of Toronto at Mississauga — do their research by gluing tiny radio transmitters to the backs of crickets, and then tracking the signals they emit as they travel.

The researchers spend weeks in the field each summer, usually between Utah and Colorado. Last June, the team spent two-and-a-half weeks working near Utah's Dinosaur National Monument. Their research, in its third year, is funded by the Agriculture Department.

To understand why the insects travel in packs that can stretch several miles wide and 10 miles in length, the scientists separate individual crickets from the mass. Then they glue transmitters — each weighing less than half a gram — to the backs of their selected crickets.

When separated, their research found, 50 to 60 percent of the crickets were killed by predators within two days. That led to the conclusion that pack travel is a survival mechanism for the crickets, a finding that could be applied all mass migrating animals and insects, from locusts to wildebeests, Lorch said.

Although the theory that mass migrations help protect animals from predators has been proposed before, Lorch said this study is the first to quantify the benefits of such behavior. If the research eventually allows Lorch and his colleagues to predict migration patterns, the information could aid farmers in protecting crops and could ultimately reduce the cost of producing beef in certain parts of the country, Lorch said.

"Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico spend on the order of millions of dollars to try and stop these things," Lorch said.

Farmers and the government now combat the crickets by mixing chemicals with oats and wheat germ and spreading the material over a large area.

The process has bad side effects, as the pesticide kills all insects that eat the grain, which can hurt the food chain. The chemicals also can get into water supplies, causing additional environmental damage.



A female Mormon cricket wears a 0.4 gram radio transmitter in June 2004, in Utah near Dinosaur National Monument.

Darryl T. Gwynne
via AP

Horoscope

In these final days of the sun's visit in Pisces, a solar cycle through the zodiac ends. The wrapping-up process causes us to account for the good, bad and ugly of the last 12 months. Flashes of extreme emotion swing the mood like a wild pendulum. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Our life is March weather, savage and serene in one hour."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 15). You're destined for success. This year proves to you that your hard work and wishing have all been for a purpose. Surprising turns in the next 10 weeks cause you to act quickly or miss out. Getting enough sleep, food and exercise allows you to stay mentally and physically nimble. Love requires sacrifice in May. Lucky signs are Leo and Taurus.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're usually goal-oriented, so days like today, when you feel sort of lost and restless, are quite out of character. Here's a hint: Sometimes, the "goal" is unconscious. You're already working toward it without realizing what it is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Explorations of the higher mind bring you closer to happiness. The quest for knowledge is an ongoing one, though. With all your research and study, you may find there is no explanation that can satisfy you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Public relations do matter. Put energy there. You're so used to your work that it no longer seems impressive to you. Though it's hardly the sort of thing you boast about, someone else does and is promoted as a result.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It would be nice to be the world to your own little corner of the world to do your thing. But that's just not the way it works. Getting along with difficult people will be the difference between success and failure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's a time to extend your arms and a time to retract them, hugging your

own soul. You're comforted by pulling back — delve deeper into your own reality, and you'll find the elation you've been seeking through external means.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Moral and ethical issues arise. If you can't get involved in what the group is doing, it may be because it's inherently wrong. An honest man doesn't really have a knack for that sort of activity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a long list of unfinished business. The good news is that much of it doesn't have to be accomplished by you. Let loved ones know that if they're going to be hanging out with you, they should expect to be put to work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some mysterious inspires you to activate your shadow engine. Everyone has something to hide, though the secrets you uncover may not be as deep and dark as your imagination wants them to be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can still win, but you must be persuasive to do it. Getting people to think like you is impossible. So try and come to a consensus with the people you're pretty much stuck with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ... your imagination. Unfortunately, no one is coming to rescue you out of your current precarious position. So you must rely on your own super skills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Loved ones who have been recently neglected will act out. Consider that there is probably a better way to balance your time. Rework your schedule. Remember, the excellent things in this world must be fought for.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Once again, it's clear that your happiness depends on being able to connect in agreement with two or three special people. As John Lennon once said, "A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality."

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes

I WONDER WHY PEOPLE ARE NEVER CONTENT WITH WHAT THEY HAVE.

ARE YOU KIDDING? YOUR FINGERPAINTS HAVE A ZING. YOU GOT NO FRIGID, YOU CAN'T SEE IN THE NIGHT, YOUR PINK HIGGS ARE REDUCED, YOUR REFLEXES ARE NUL, AND YOU YOURSELF EVEN HAVE TALKS OF COURSE. PEOPLE AREN'T CONTENT?

I FORGOT I SAID ANYTHING.

WELL IF THERE WEREN'T CONTENT, THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING TO WONDER ABOUT.

Jump Start

OUR TWINS ARE FRATERNAL! A BOY AND A GIRL!!

SUNNY AND JOJO WILL HAVE A NEW BROTHER AND A SISTER!

I AM THE HAPPIEST, LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!

Zits

WE HAVE A SUBSTITUTE ELEGANT TEACHER, AND HE'S SUCH A SERK!

HERE'S YOUR REGULAR TEACHER?

OH, HER APPOINTMENT NURSED HIM AND HER CAR WAS DESTROYED WHILE SHE WAS AT HER NAIL TECHNICIAN. SO SHE'LL BE GONE UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

Cathy

THAT SIDE OF MY COUCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY SPOT.

BUT THIS COUCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY SPOT.

MY SPOT!

Hi and Lois

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER USED TO DO HIS ROUNDS IN A HORSE-DRAWN WAGON!

WAS HE IN THE SAME BUSINESS?

ARE YOU KIDDING? ALOYSIUS ABERCROMBIE IS IN THE GARAGEMENS HALL OF FAME!

Beetle Bailey

I HEAR REVELLE, OTTO! TIME TO GET UP!

I DIDN'T HEAR ANY BUGLE.

IT'S CALLING BUGS TO BREAKFAST.

Red Rover

UP AND AT 'EM, LAZ BONES! SQUIRREL-CHASING SEASON IS ONLY A FEW SHOTS' WEEENS AWAY!

TIME TO GET YOU INTO SHAPE!

WE'LL START WITH A FEW OF THE BAGS OUT BACK.

Better or Worse

WHAT WILL IT BE ON THE WAY HOME FROM JACK O' LANTERN?

CAN HE GO DOWN YONDER FOREVER?

DEE, THE GUY IN THE NEXT CAR ARE CHECKING YOU ARE A KID!

Peanuts

I'M GLAD YOU'RE GOING TO THE MOON.

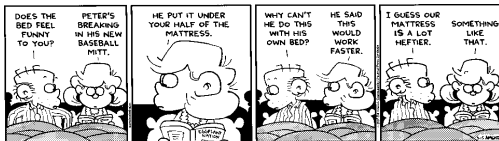
THAT MEANS I WON'T HAVE TO FEED YOU TONIGHT.

REPORT THAT MAN TO MISSION CONTROL!!

THAT'S A BABY?

3/15/05

Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



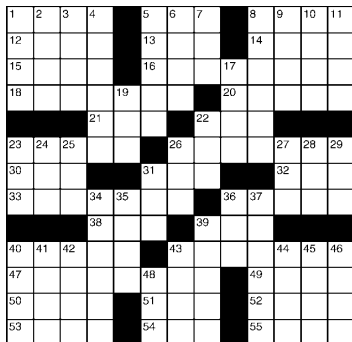
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Desire
5 Barbie's ex
8 Karate school
12 Wan
13 Paul Bunyan prop
14 Carbon compound
15 Turn on a pivot
16 Longfellow subject
18 League championship
20 O. Henry's specialty
21 Billboards
22 Colony dweller
23 Low voice
26 Snobbish
30 Literary collection
31 Comic DeLuxe
32 Sapporo sash
33 Fireplug
36 Leonard Marx
38 Mound stat
39 Ovine comment
40 Savory jelly
43 Personnel Dept. actions
47 Intensity
49 Caffeine-rich nut
50 Square
51 Marry
52 Works with
53 Disarray
54 Chowderhead
55 Witnesses

Down

- 1 Nasty stinger
2 Capri, e.g.
3 Avoid
4 Laughing pack
5 Madeline and Gus
6 Egress
7 PBS benefactor
8 Scarcity
9 Aware of
10 Revelation writer
11 Moisturizer name
17 KFC piece
19 Commotion
22 Intention
23 "Humbly!"
24 Whatever amount
25 Despondent
26 Stolen
27 Polli preceder
28 Regis and Kelly's network
29 Uncle (Sp.)
31 "CSI" evidence
34 Holds the scepter
35 St. Louis attraction
36 Ford or Lincoln
37 17-syllable verses
39 Constricts
40 Attention getter
41 Gopher Ballesteros
42 Slapstick arsenal
43 Doctor's revenue
44 Winning margin, maybe
45 Merriment
46 Back talk
48 Airline initials

Answer to Previous Puzzle



3-15

CRYPTOQUIP

Z ZDHQZEM VGHV H LBYYX
NMVSMME H LHEEYE HEK
H NMRR SYIRK NM KINNMK

"VGM NYDDBHEQ."
Yesterday's Cryptquip: ONE OF MY COMPUTER KEYS APPEARS TO BE STICKING, BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: N equals B

SCOREBOARD

AFTN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFTN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. Daily basketball: Jani Fast (Islamabad, Three-Point), and Tim Finner (Finland) (2).

AFTN-Sports, 7:30 a.m. College basketball: North Carolina vs. Tennessee (2).

AFTN-Sports, 2:30 p.m. NBA: Milwaukee at Miami (2).

AFTN-Sports, 6 p.m. Outdoors: Walt-Mart Florida (2).

AFTN-Sports, 7 p.m. Baseball: Spring Training: L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox.

Wednesday

AFTN-Sports and Radio, 6:30 a.m. College basketball: NCAA Tournament: Play-in game, Oklahoma vs. Tennessee (2).

AFTN-Atlantic, 1 a.m. College basketball: NIT first-round game.

AFTN-Sports, 3 a.m. Motor racing: Champagny-Off-Road Racing: Topaca Rovers 2 and 3 (2).

AFTN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. Outdoors: Babe Winters' Good Fish (2).

AFTN-Sports, noon-NBA: Minnesota at Dallas (2).

AFTN-Sports, 5:30 p.m. Auto racing: Nextel Cup: Duane Carter Chrysler 400 (4d).

AFTN-Sports, 9 p.m. Tennis: Pacific Cup. Open women's quarterfinal.

All times are Central European Time due to indicators displayed online. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.mysat.net for more information.

Baseball

Spring training games

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Cleveland	W	9	7-27
Toronto	L	4	7-30
Los Angeles	L	4	7-29
Tampa Bay	L	4	7-29
Baltimore	L	4	7-30
Minnesota	L	4	7-30
Seattle	L	4	7-30
Kansas City	L	4	7-30
Oakland	L	4	7-30
Seattle	L	4	7-30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis	W	1	6-27
Colorado	L	4	7-30
San Francisco	L	4	7-30
Milwaukee	L	4	7-30
Pittsburgh	L	4	7-30
New York	L	4	7-30
Arizona	L	4	7-30
Los Angeles	L	4	7-30
Pittsburgh	L	4	7-30
San Diego	L	4	7-30
Houston	L	4	7-30

Spring split-squad games against non-major league teams do not.

Sunday's games

N.Y. Mets	7	Detroit	3
Minnesota	4	Boston	2
N.Y. Yankees	8	Houston	2
L.A. Dodgers	7	Florida	2
Cleveland	10	Cincinnati	1
Toronto	5	Tampa Bay	4
St. Louis	15	Atlanta	3
Philadelphia	1	Baltimore	4
Philadelphia	9	Pittsburgh	7
St. Louis	5	St. Louis	3
Seattle	7	Seattle	6

Monday's games

Florida	vs. Minnesota	at Fort Myers, Fla.
Toronto	vs. St. Louis	at Jupiter, Fla.
Boston	at Baltimore	at Aberdeen, Md.
Ft. Mets	vs. Cleveland	at Winter Haven, Fla.
Dodgers	vs. Washington	at Viera, Fla.
Toronto	vs. Philadelphia	at Clearwater, Fla.
Brexit	(vs. Cincinnati)	(at Sarasota, Fla.)

Tuesday's games

Texas	vs. L.A. Angels	at Tempe, Ariz.
San Diego	at Arizona	at Tucson, Ariz.
Seattle	(vs. San Diego)	at Peoria, Ariz.
Seattle	(vs. Seattle)	vs. Chicago
Seattle	(vs. Seattle)	vs. Kansas City
Cincinnati	(vs. Detroit)	(at Lakeland, Fla.)
Pittsburgh	vs. N.Y. Yankees	at Tampa, Fla.

Auto racing

NASCAR Nextel Cup

Sunday

At Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Las Vegas

Lap length: 1.66 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (9) Jimmie Johnson, Ford, 243.8/26.0

2. (5) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 247.8/26.0

3. (1) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 267.3/31.0

5. (42) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
6. (3) Greg Biffle, Ford, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
7. (15) Casey Mears, Dodge, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
8. (8) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
9. (1) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
10. (23) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
11. (47) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
12. (21) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
13. (29) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
14. (20) Carl Edwards, Ford, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0
15. (22) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 267.3/31.0	267.3/31.0

Bigger than 'other' Washington school

Huskies not only region's top seed but also its best 'feel-good' story

BY EDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

Bob Knight and Rick Pittino, Gonzaga and UCLA. All household names that are part of the Albuquerque regional this year. Only the hard core, though, might be familiar with the top seed — pint-sized guard Nate Robinson, third-year coach Lorenzo Romar and the Washington Huskies.

The Huskies (27-5), who play the majority of their games after most of America has gone to bed, definitely got the attention of the NCAA selection committee.

They won the Pac-10 tournament Saturday and, when Kentucky lost in the Southeastern Conference final Sunday, the team was opened for Romar's team to be seeded first — not bad for a team ranked just 14th in the latest Associated Press poll.

"If you ask me, 'Do we deserve it?' My answer is yes," Romar said. "Are we surprised? I guess the surprising part is that we weren't sure whether someone else, other than us, would think we deserved it."

Washington as the No. 1, Wake Forest as the No. 2 and last year's national runner-up, Georgia Tech, as the No. 3, this is widely regarded as the most wide-open regional in the country.

Gonzaga, arguably the most recognizable team from Washington, earned a third seed and, given the bracket, there's a good argument for this being the year the tiny



Washington coach Lorenzo Romar hugs Jamal Williams after the Huskies' 81-72 victory over Arizona on Saturday. Washington earned not only the Pac-10 tournament title but a No. 1 seeding in the NCAA tourney.

school from Spokane finally gets to the Final Four.

"I don't really sit there and analyze," Bulldogs coach Mark Fey said. "I leave that up to the bracketologists."

All around the bracket are interesting stories featuring familiar names and high-profile programs.

Knight leads sixth-seeded Texas Tech in a first-round round against 11th-seeded UCLA.

Chris Paul of Wake Forest tries to set aside his suspension from the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament — one that contributed

to his team's first-round loss — and lead the Demon Deacons to the regional semis for the second straight year.

Georgia Tech, a bubble team just two weeks ago, got in easily thanks to its appearance in the ACC tournament final. The Yellow Jackets open against Georgia Washington.

Pittino leads the fourth-seeded Cardinals against Sun Belt champion Louisiana-Lafayette. The Cardinals, ranked sixth in the AP and winners of the regular-season and tournament championships in Conference USA, were

expecting a better seed, and now have reason to play with a chip on their shoulders.

"I've got to lift them up a little bit," Pittino said. "But we're in the tournament, we've met the criteria, we've met all the challenges and we've just got to keep on going."

Pacific looked like it could be the next Gonzaga, a powerful small school that had won 22 straight going into the Big West Conference tournament final. A loss in that game dampened the optimism, but when the bracket came out, the Tigers found them-

selves a No. 8 seed — one win away (against Pitt) from playing the Huskies.

"It looks like a good bracket for us," forward Christian Maraker said.

Indeed, it is wide open, and there is no need to look too far down the bracket to find the kind of intriguing, unknown team that often captures imaginations during the tournament.

That candidate is the Huskies, who get 16 points a game from the five-foot-9 Robinson and who defeated Arizona twice over the last three weeks to greatly improve their standing in the bracket.

They beat out Kentucky, Oklahoma State, Wake Forest and a few other good candidates for a top seed, and even some in the oft-overlooked Pac-10 were surprised.

"It speaks volumes to the selection committee that they were able to give a No. 1 seed to the Pac-10 in the West," Stanford coach Trent Johnson said. "Me personally, I didn't think they were going to get it."

They did, though, and Romar gets much of the credit.

A former Huskie himself, Romar was an assistant under Jim Harrick when UCLA won the national championship in 1995. Romar took over before the 2002-03 season and quickly transformed the Huskies from a regional also-ran into a national power. Washington's success in the latest RPI ratings. The Pac-10 tournament title was the first league championship of any kind for the Huskies since 1985.

"We've definitely got a banner to put up in the gym next year," Washington forward Bobby Jones said. "We'd love to have another one that says 'National Champions'."

AP Sports Writers Tim Korte in Seattle and Janie McCauley in San Francisco contributed to this report.

Albuquerque Regional

1. WASHINGTON

Record: 27-5. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 83-65 vs. Arizona on Jan. 26.
Key players: G Nate Robinson (16.5 pts., 4.9 reb., 5.1 ast.), G Jamal Williams (16.5 pts., 3.8 reb., 3.1 ast.), G Brandon Roy (13.2 pts., 1.7 reb., 1.7 ast.) (11.7 pts., 5.4 reb.).

Did you know?: A guard at Washington from 1978-80, Romar played for Golden State, Milwaukee and Detroit before joining the NBA in 1989 to play for Atlanta in Action, the athletic division of the Atlanta Crusade.

Outlook: Talented squad has final four hopes.

2. WAKE FOREST

Record: 26-5. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 95-82 vs. North Carolina on Jan. 15.
Key players: G Chris Paul (14.9 pts., 6.5 ast.), C Ray Williams (6.0 pts., 7.7 reb.), G Justin Gray (16.3 pts., 21 ast.).

Did you know?: CBS anchor Billy Packer was an All-ACC guard for Wake in 1962, when the Deacons won their only four straight titles.

Outlook: With Paul running the point, Demon Deacons could make a strong run for the Final Four.

3. GONZAGA

Record: 25-4. Last 10: 10-0.
Best win: 78-75 at Oklahoma State on Dec. 28.
Key players: F Adam Morrison (38.1 pts., 4.8 reb.), F Ronny Turiaf (16.0 pts., 9.1 reb.), G Derek Rusk (14.4 pts., 5.0 ast.).

Did you know?: Giant of 'Zags' wins NCAA wins since 1999. No longer giant klutzes. 'Zags could make Final Four dash.

4. LOUISVILLE

Record: 29-4. Last 10: 10-0.
Best win: 77-70 vs. Cincinnati on Feb. 2.
Key players: F Francisco Garcia (15.3 pts., 2.1 reb., 2.1 ast.), F Adam Morrison (38.1 pts., 4.8 reb.), G Tajuan Dean (14.2 pts., 4.68 3-pt. p.).

Did you know?: A native of London, England, Dean portrayed a basketball coach for three years on the South Central Conference's "Coach of the Year" show.

Outlook: Coming on strong, Cardinals could make a long tournament run.

5. GEORGIA TECH

Record: 19-11. Last 10: 6-4.
Best win: 102-101 at Wake Forest on Jan. 27.
Key players: G Jarrett Jack (15.0 pts., 4.6 ast.), G F.J. Elder (13.4 pts., 3.8 3-pt. p.), G Luke Schensler (10.4 pts., 7.5 reb.).

Did you know?: Yellow Jackets' loss to Connecticut in last year's title game was best NCAA run in school history.

Outlook: The Yellow Jackets are peaking at the right time, but the selection committee did them no favors. One win could be it.

6. TEXAS TECH

Record: 20-10. Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 80-79 vs. Kansas on Feb. 14.
Key players: G Ronald Ross (16.0 pts., 5.1 reb.), G Jarrett Jack (14.6 pts., 3.3 reb.), F Devonne Gies (11.6 pts., 1.9 reb.).

Did you know?: Ross, the Red Raiders' leading scorer, was a walk-on without a scholarship as a freshman.

Outlook: Never court a Knight-coached team out, but the Red Raiders will be lucky to win two games.

7. WEST VIRGINIA

Record: 21-10. Last 10: 7-3.
Best win: 70-62 at Pittsburgh on Jan. 27.
Key players: G Mike Gansby (10.8 pts., 5.3 reb., 2.3 ast.), F Tony Sally (12.1 pts.).

Did you know?: The Mountaineers have produced 13 All-Americans over the years including basketball legends Jerry West and "Hot" Rod Hundley.

Outlook: Anyone from the Big East is tough, but Mountaineers lack the big-time player to take them deep into the tournament.

8. PACIFIC

Record: 26-3. Last 10: 9-1.
Best win: 72-61 at Nevada on Dec. 11.
Key players: G Mitch Smith (31.3 pts., 6.3 reb.), F/C Guillaume Vay (13.1 pts., 7.4 reb.), G David Doubinsky (12.2 pts., 4.0 ast.).

Did you know?: Pacific is one of just two teams in nation to finish undefeated in its regular conference season (Davidson is the other, from the South Atlantic Conference).

Outlook: The Tigers surprised Providence as a No. 2 seed this year, but no one should overlook this year.

9. PITTSBURGH

Record: 20-8. Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 72-50 at Boston College on Feb. 28.
Key players: G Carl Kraeger (13.5 pts., 6.0 ast.), F Cameron Truitt (15.3 pts., 8.0 reb.), F Chris Taft (13.4 pts.).

Did you know?: The Panthers completed a third consecutive season ranked in the Top 10 in 2004, one of only three schools to achieve the honor (Wake and Kansas were the others).

Outlook: Could surprise, but an up and down season makes a long run in the tournament unlikely for the Panthers.

10. CREIGHTON

Record: 23-10. Last 10: 9-1.
Best win: 78-54 at Missouri on Nov. 23.
Key players: G Nate Funk (17.9 pts., 5.0 reb.), G Johnny Mathies (16.5 pts., 4.26 3-pt. p.), G Keller Miller (8.6 pts., 2.3 reb.).

Did you know?: Blue Jays' record run of five consecutive NCAA bids under Altman ended last year when CU went 20-8 and went to 11.

Outlook: Up-tempo, smallish Jays could have problems vs. bigger foes.

11. SMALL JAYS

Record: 18-10. Last 10: 6-4.
Best win: 78-50 vs. Washington on Jan. 8.
Key players: G Dion Thompson (18.3 pts., 6.0 reb.), G Jordan Farmer (13.6 pts., 3.3 ast.), G Aaron Allard (11.0 pts., 2.2 ast.).

Did you know?: From 1982-80, Bruins went to 13 Final Fours, winning nine championships. Since then, UCLA has made Final Four only once while getting past Sweet 16 only three times.

Outlook: The Bruins rely heavily on three freshmen, and their first-round exit from the Pac-10 tournament is a possibility.

12. GEORGIA WASHINGTON

Record: 22-7. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 79-74 vs. Michigan State, 96-83 on Dec. 4.
Key players: G T.J. Thompson (13.7 pts., 3.0 ast.), F J.K. Monck (13.5 pts., 3.1 reb.), F Nana Mensah-Bonsu (12.4 pts., 6.6 reb.).

Did you know?: A native of London, England, Mensah-Bonsu goes by "Pops" since his full name is Nana Kwame Mensah-Bonsu.

Outlook: The Colonials overachieved to reach the Sweet 16, but more than one game would be a huge reach.

13. LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

Record: 20-10. Last 10: 7-3.
Best win: 83-61 vs. Southern Illinois on Jan. 5.
Key players: G Tiras Wade (20.4 pts., 6.0 reb.), F Brian Hamilton (11.5 pts., 7.5 reb.), G Oren Greene (11.7 pts., 4.7 reb.).

Did you know?: Louisiana-Lafayette was known as Southwestern Louisiana until 1999.

Outlook: It was a strong year for the Sun Belt and the Ragin' Cajuns coming in 1995.

Record: 27-5. Last 10: 14-1.
Best win: 69-61 at Liberty on Feb. 10.

Did you know?: The Eagles are making their fifth NCAA tournament appearance in coach Ed Marshall's seventh year.

Outlook: Only one other Big South team finished above .500, so the Eagles' score could be a base upon which to stage an upset.

Record: 20-10. Last 10: 7-3.
Best win: 82-58 vs. Wake Forest on Feb. 14.
Key players: F Mindugas Katselnyas (12.2 pts., 9.2 reb.), F P.J. Brown (10.8 pts., 6.2 reb.), F Alphonso Pugh (10.8 pts., 3.6 reb.).

Did you know?: The Panthers' appearance in the tournament comes in John Shumaker's first year as a head coach.

Outlook: The Southern Conference champ has lost first-round games but has better than five points each of the past three years. Wake Forest had better be ready.

16. MONTANA

Record: 18-12. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 79-74 vs. Michigan State on Feb. 26.
Key players: F Karmar Davis (14.8 pts., 5.9 reb.), G Kevin Cisswell (12.4 pts., 4.2 reb.), F Matt Diokriew.

Did you know?: A former zigzag, Kriek Diokriew was the 1987 NBA draft, spent 10 years in the NBA with six teams and six head coaches.

Outlook: The Grizzlies have size but lack experience - Davis is the only senior.

T stacked, stacked bracket' with St. Louis

Syracuse Regional champ will have to 'earn their way' to St. Louis

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.

The Associated Press

North Carolina, Connecticut, Kansas and Florida are a formidable foursome at the top of the Syracuse Regional.

Throw in talent-laden teams like Villanova, Wisconsin and North Carolina State, and this 16-team field shapes up as one of the tightest in recent NCAA tournament history.

"This is a stacked, stacked bracket," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said Sunday after the NCAA tournament's 64 teams were announced. "Therefore, whoever gets to St. Louis is going to have to earn their way."

The top-seeded Tar Heels (27-4) had its first 20-win season since 2000-2001 and finished atop the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season standings for the first time since 1993, but lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC tournament semifinals.

"Earning a No. 1 seed is truly a reward for a fantastic season," coach Roy Williams said in a statement. "I am extremely happy for our seniors to make it to the NCAA tournament two years in a row after enduring a difficult first year two years."

The Tar Heels will face the winner of Tuesday's play-in game Friday in Charlotte, N.C. Oakland (12-18), which won the Mid-Continent Conference tournament, will play Alabama A&M, the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion in Raymond, Miss. Kansas — the school Williams let to coach his alma mater in 2003.

"It would be a dream for me," Kansas senior guard Michael Lee said. "I want to play my former coach. I didn't think I had a chance to see him, but if we get a chance to meet them, it would be fun."

The Jayhawks (23-6), the No. 3 seed, opened under Bucknell (22-9) at Oklahoma City. Kansas was ranked No. 1 in the coun-



Kansas coach coach Bill Self, left, has downplayed the potential Elite Eight matchup with former Kansas coach Roy Williams, right, now coaching No. 1 seed North Carolina.

try early on and No. 2 for most of the season but lost five of its last eight games, including the Big 12 semifinal to Oklahoma State.

"Carolina is not on my brain at all," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We've got Bucknell and we've got Wisconsin or Northern Iowa if we're fortunate enough to beat Bucknell. That's all this team needs to be focused on and thinking about."

Wisconsin (22-8) lost to No. 1 overall seed Illinois in the Big Ten championship, while Northern Iowa (21-10) has won five of seven.

Defending national champion Connecticut, the No. 2 seed, opens against Central Florida and the season shows it can play with the big boys, but a repeat of the Wildcats' 1985 championship magic is unlikely.



Star recruit AJ. Price is recovering from a brain hemorrhage he suffered in October. Leading scorer Rashad Anderson battled a life-threatening illness last month brought on by complications from a skin infection.

"It's been hard," forward Charlie Villanueva said. "We've been through a lot and it's a blessing being a top seed. Without a doubt, it's toughened us up."

Next up would be the winner of the Charlotte (21-7)-North Carolina State (19-13) game.

State was ranked as high as No. 12 and started 10-13 this season, but lost nine of its next 12 before working their way back into tournament contention.

"Win or lose, they can always remember how they were in a very tough spot and yet

they brought their way out of it," coach Herb Sendek said. "That's something that's going to stay with these guys for a long time."

Florida (23-7), which beat Kentucky twice in eight games, will play the regular-season finale and its first SEC tournament title — opens against Ohio (21-10) in Nashville, Tenn.

"We're very, very excited about what happened today," coach Billy Donovan said. "But we've got to be able to take that next step and just focus on the NCAA tournament and getting ready to play."

The last time the Gators made the Final Four, also going through the Syracuse Regional, was in 2000, when they lost to Michigan State 89-76 in the national championship game. In the four years since, Florida hasn't gotten past the first round.

But the Gators are playing their best basketball of the season — winning seven in a row and allowing an average of just 56.4 points during that span.

The Florida-Ohio winner takes on whoever comes out of the Villanova-New Mexico game — one of the tournament's most intriguing 5-12 matchups.

Fifth-seeded Villanova (22-7), who played in the NIT the last five years, had an eight-game winning streak before losing to West Virginia in the Big East semifinals. "Nova gained confidence late in the season with a win over then-No. 3 Boston College last month and then-No. 2 Kansas in January."

"I think it's helped us a lot to prepare for this particular moment, playing those tough teams," forward Curtis Sumpter said.

"I think we're in one of the toughest brackets out there."

New Mexico (20-6) has won nine in a row and was a bit miffed at getting a No. 12 seed after winning the Mountain West Conference tournament.

"I thought we'd get a 9 or 11, possibly a 10," coach Tommy Tubbs said. "Ritchie Smith said, 'Twelve seeds are usually the last at-large (seeds) in I thought being 26-6 we deserved a little more favorable number ... but we'll just take what we got.'"

Syracuse Regional

1. NORTH CAROLINA

Record: 27-18; 15-8 Kentucky on Dec. 4.
Key players: Sean May (16.7 pts., 10.9 reb.), G Rashad McCants (15.8 pts., 2.8 ast.), G Raymond Felton (12.0 pts., 7.3 ast.), F Javaw Williams (11.0 pts., 4.0 reb.).

Did you know?: Roy Williams' 35 tournament wins is tied with Oklahoma State's Eddie Sutton for the most wins in national title games.

Outlook: Powerful and deep, anything but a Final Four disappointment.

2. CONNECTICUT

Record: 27-12; 14-6 at Pittsburgh on Feb. 26.
Key players: F/C Johnathan Williams (21.9 pts., 8.5 reb.), F Charlie Villanueva (13.1 pts., 8.1 reb.), Rudy Gay (11.9 pts., 4.58 3-pt. pct.), G/Rashad Anderson (12.8 pts., 3.9 reb.).

Did you know?: After Allen shot the Connecticut record of 19 consecutive three-pointers at 44.3 percent (233-520).

Outlook: Rashad Anderson returned in Big East tournament after missing seven games with a thigh injury. Rashad Anderson's strong performance from Anderson if they hope get back to the Final Four.

23. KANSAS

Record: 23-6; 14-1 at St. Louis on Jan. 9.
Key players: G Wayne Simmon (30.4 pts., 11.1 reb.), G Keith Langford (14.7 pts., 2.8 reb.), G Aaron Miles (19.4 pts., 3.1 reb.).

Did you know?: Kansas has not lost a final four game in 10 appearances.

Outlook: Jayhawks are talented enough to make the third Final Four, but they need to win, but only if they can shake a late-season slump.

Record: 23-7; 10-1 at St. Louis on Feb. 5.

Best win: 85-50 at Wake Forest (18 pts., 2.4 ast.), G Matt Watson (13.9 pts., 4.32 3-pt. pct.), G Aaron Miles (19.4 pts., 3.1 reb.).

Did you know?: Donovan and Texas Tech's Bob Knight are the only coaches to lead Gonzaga to the Elite Eight in 1998.

Outlook: Minnesota has overachieved all year. Anything more than one win would be huge.

5. VILLANOVA

Record: 22-7; 10-2 at Kansas on Jan. 22.
Key players: F Curtis Stinson (16.2 pts., 7.4 reb.), G Alan Ray (17.3 pts.).

Did you know?: The Wildcats knocked out No. 2 teams this season, including then-No. 2 Kansas.

Outlook: Villanova has jelled the past six weeks and the season shows it can play with the big boys, but a repeat of the Wildcats' 1985 championship magic is unlikely.

6. CHARLOTTE

Record: 22-8; 10-5 at Alabama on Jan. 16.
Key players: F Alando Tucker (15.0 pts., 6.7 reb.), F Mike Wilkinson (14.9 pts., 7.2 reb.), G Sharif Chambliss (7.7 pts., 2.4 ast.).

Did you know?: Chambliss led Penn State in scoring as part of a sophomore (146 pts.) and a junior (147 pts.).

Outlook: Peaky badshots could befuddle their opponents or be gone in a flash.

11. NORTHERN IOWA

Record: 21-10; 10-3 at Alabama on Feb. 4.
Key players: F Curtis Withers (17.5 pts., 8.3 reb.), F Eddie Sassen (15.3 pts., 8.4 reb.), G/F Brenton Plavich (14.1 pts.).

Did you know?: Plavich led the SEC with 441 three-point shooting percentage while playing for Vanderbilt in 2001-02.

Outlook: With a nice blend of inside-outside, Charlotte could catch a team or two napping, but the others drop their last three, which is troubling.

18. MINNESOTA

Record: 21-10; 10-4 at Wisconsin on Feb. 5.
Key players: G/Vincent Grey (17.9 pts., 1.9 reb.), C Jeff Hagan (11.5 pts., 2.5 reb.), G Aaron Robinson (8.0 pts., 4.00 3-pt. pct.).

Did you know?: Before coming to Minnesota, coach Alvin Williams led Gonzaga to the Elite Eight in 1998.

Outlook: Minnesota has overachieved all year. Anything more than one win would be huge.

9. IOWA STATE

Record: 18-11; 10-7 at Kansas on Feb. 19.
Key players: G Curtis Stinson (17.3 pts., 8.4 reb.), G Jared Homan (13.4 pts., 8.2 reb.), G Will Ballo (12.8 pts., 4.9 ast.).

Did you know?: Only four players on Iowa's roster have played in the state of Iowa.

Outlook: One win is possible for the streaky Cyclones, who started the season 0-5. Anything more is hard to fathom.

10. M.C. STATE

Record: 19-13; 10-6 at Georgia Tech on Feb. 13.
Key players: F Julius Hodge (17.1 pts., 6.9 reb.), G Cameron Benninger (9.2 pts., 4.05 3-pt. pct.), G Enjin Atsar (8.1 pts., 2.4 ast.).

Did you know?: Since winning 19 NCAA games under late Jim Valvano and Norm Sloan from 1979-89, Wolfpack are just 3-4 in NCAA play.

Outlook: The Wolfpack surged at the end of the season and made a good run in the ACC tournament, but getting beyond Connecticut in the second round will be very difficult.

11. NORTHERN IOWA

Record: 21-10; 10-3 at Alabama on Feb. 4.
Key players: F Curtis Withers (17.5 pts., 8.3 reb.), F Eddie Sassen (15.3 pts., 8.4 reb.), G/F Brenton Plavich (14.1 pts.).

Did you know?: Plavich led the SEC with 441 three-point shooting percentage while playing for Vanderbilt in 2001-02.

Outlook: With a nice blend of inside-outside, Charlotte could catch a team or two napping, but the others drop their last three, which is troubling.

12. NEW MEXICO

Record: 20-6; 10-2 at Kansas on Feb. 21.
Key players: F Danny Granger (18.3 pts., 8.5 reb.), G Troy DeVries (11.5 pts., 2.7 ast.).

Did you know?: The Lobos have finished second in the nation in attendance five times, three on four occasions, and fourth six times.

Outlook: Lobos beat a tough Utah team to earn a bid to the tournament and have the talent to stick around awhile.

13. OHIO

Record: 21-10; 10-8 at Kentucky on Feb. 2.
Key players: G Michael Green (14.7 pts., 3.8 reb.), G Chris McKelvey (12.2 pts., 3.8 reb.), F Leon Williams (12.9 pts., 8.6 reb.).

Did you know?: Assistant coach Kevin Kuwilk has been stationed in Iraq as an Army engineer captain since October. He took his two-week leave to return for the end of the season.

Outlook: The Bobcats rely heavily on Williams' production. The team's success in the Ohio could cause trouble for some higher seeds.

22. BUCKNELL

Record: 22-9; 14-6 at Pittsburgh on Jan. 2.
Key players: G Jason Bettencourt (12.7 pts., 8.83 F pct.), G/F Charles Lee (12.5 pts., 6.3 reb., 4.0 3-pt. pct.), C Chris McKelvey (12.2 pts., 4.7 reb.).

Did you know?: No Patriot League team has ever won the national title.

Outlook: Victories over Pittsburgh and St. Joseph's prove the Bison have the talent to surprise anyone in the first round of the past 12, but likely will struggle against UConn, their first major-conference opponent of the season.

15. CENTRAL FLORIDA

Record: 24-8; 10-2 at Utah State on Nov. 20.
Key players: G Josh Smith (15.8 pts., 3.4 reb.), G Gary Johnson (13.2 pts., 4.0 reb.), F Anthony Williams (12.9 pts., 2.2 reb.).

Did you know?: UCF is among the largest universities in the nation, with 44,000 students.

Outlook: The Knights have won five of their past 12, but likely will struggle against UConn, their first major-conference opponent of the season.

16. ALABAMA A&M

Record: 19-13; 10-7 at Oklahoma City on Feb. 21.
Key players: G Olie Trotter (14.8 pts., 3.9 reb.), G Joe May (13.9 pts., 3.9 reb.).

Outlook: The Bulldogs have "one-and-done" written all over them.

18. OKLAHOMA

Record: 12-18; 10-6 at St. Louis on Feb. 5.

Key players: G Kwame Marshall (19.7 pts., 7.7 reb.), F Courtney Scott (17.9 pts., 7.3 reb.).

Outlook: Oklahoma has had their Cinderella moment in the MCC tourney.

More Plains Champions

As if they needed more of an advantage, the Illini will be close to home throughout the tournament

By NANCY ARMOUR
The Associated Press

Illinois couldn't have a better draw unless the NCAA tournament was moved to Assembly Hall.

The top-ranked Illini drew the overall No. 1 seed and the Chicago Regional on Sunday, essentially giving them homecourt advantage for the entire NCAA tournament. All three rounds are within a three-hour drive of the campus, and the regional finals are in Chicago, where most of the players grew up.

"It gives us a great advantage," Roger Powell Jr. said. "Our fan support is so strong. Even if we went far away, I'm sure they all would have come. This just makes it easier on their gas money, you might say."

Illinois set its sights on a No. 1 seed months ago, with Nick Smith saying in October, "It's St. Louis or bust." Which No. 1 really didn't matter, though the Illini know their geography as well as anybody else.

And the Illini made it easy on the selection committee, going 32-1, spending almost the entire season at No. 1 and winning the Big Ten title and conference tournament.

Even a loss in the regular-season finale didn't hurt them, though it had seemed to reinforce what outsiders had been saying all winter: The big draw of Illinois there is little, if any, depth and the Big Ten isn't the ACC. The Illini may have kept their No. 1 ranking intact, but the voters preferred North Carolina.

But Illinois won the Big Ten tournament Sunday after North Carolina lost to Georgia Tech in

the ACC semifinals. The Tar Heels finished the year 27-4. All the other top schools finished with at least four losses.

"We put ourselves in the position we wanted to be in. All we have to do is take advantage of it," said James Augustine, the most valued player in the Big Ten tournament. "We're happy with the position we're in."

They should be. While other tournament teams will have most of their time traveling — Alabama-Birmingham was sent to Boise, Idaho, for the opening round — the Illini could hitch rides and still make it with time to spare.

Indianapolis, where the Illini

"They are definitely feeding us to the lions."

Tom Green

Fairleigh Dickinson coach

will play 16th-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson on Thursday, is a two-hour drive. Chicago is less than 2½ hours away, and St. Louis is on the state line, a mere three-hour jaunt.

And talk about fan-friendliness. When Illinois played in the Wooden Classic in December, Illini fans overran the city. Chicago is merely an extension of Champaign, home to eight players and the largest alumni concentration.

On Sunday, the entire arena was awash in orange except for two small sections. They're not shy about their allegiance, either. They even booed the clips of Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan's fight song that flashed on the scoreboard.

"Hopefully our people, buying up

tickets," coach Bruce Weber said. "We talked about having a chance to go to Indy, to go to Chicago. We're pleased with that. At the same time, I told the kids I want part of a No. 1 seed at Purdue and we got upset in the second round. So you can't take anything for granted."

Don't worry about that, Deron Williams said.

"We're not Purdue. We're trying to write our own stories," he said. "We're going to be focused. We've got Fairleigh Dickinson first. We're going to concentrate on them."

Great, just what the Knights wanted to hear. Fairleigh Dickinson won the Northeast Conference championship to earn a spot in the NCAA tournament for the first time in seven years. The Knights (20-12) knew they'd be facing a No. 1 team; they just didn't think it would be Illinois.

They are definitely feeding us to the lions," Fairleigh Dickinson coach Tom Green said.

Illinois isn't the only team in the Chicago Regional with a friendly travel schedule. Oklahoma State was tapped as the No. 2 seed after winning the Big 12 tournament, and drew Oklahoma City for the opening round.

The Cowboys (24-6) play 15th-seeded Southeast Louisiana (24-8) on Friday.

"We're really wanted to go to Oklahoma City. We have a very good chance there," Daniel Bobek said. "If we make it to Chicago, it is the same thing that we faced last year, when we had to go to New Jersey, which is like playing St. Joe's at home."

For those not keeping score, the Cowboys knocked off



Illinois coach Bruce Weber waves the net he cut down after the Illini beat Wisconsin 54-43 in the title game of the Big Ten tournament.

top-seeded Saint Joseph's in the regional finals to advance to the Final Four.

"I think we have a good bracket, considering the other teams in the Big 12," Joey Graham said. "We have a great opportunity."

While the Illini and Cowboys had no complaints with their seedings, Boston College was more than a little bitter. Back when they were 20-0 and ranked third in the country, the Eagles were in line for a No. 1 seed.

But after going 4-4 in their last eight games—including a loss to

West Virginia in their first game of the Big East tournament—the Eagles found themselves seeded fourth in the Chicago regional.

Worse, they were shipped to Cleveland for the opening round instead of to nearby Worcester, Mass. When the Eagles saw their No. 4 seed, they sat stone-faced while students watching the selection show with them booed.

Boston College will play 13th-seeded Penn (20-8) on Thursday.

Chicago Regional

1. ILLINOIS

Record: 32-1. Last 10: 9-1.
Best win: 91-73 vs. Wake Forest on Dec. 1.
Key players: G Luther Head (15.2 pts., 425 3-pt. attempts), G Brown (14.2 pts., 494 3-pt. pct.), G Deron Williams (12.4 pts., 66 a.s.t.).

Did you know? Forward Coach Lou Henson, Lon Kruger, Bill Self, Weber have led Illinois to the top of the Big Ten in the past five seasons.

Outlook: After a magical season, if this experienced, talented team doesn't make it to the Final Four, the land of the corn will be crushed.

2. OKLAHOMA STATE

Record: 24-6. Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 74-63 vs. Syracuse on Dec. 6.
Key players: G John Lucas (18.3 pts., 59.9 FT pct.), F Joey Graham (17 pts., 6.4 reb.), F Ivan Eze (14.6 pts., 4.7 reb.).

Did you know? John Lucas, whose father was a top All-American in 1960 and basketball in Maryland, was nationally ranked as a junior tennis player.

Outlook: With a few breaks, OSU has the horses to make it back to another Final Four. The Horns' lead in the three-point shooting (42 percent).

3. ARIZONA

Record: 27-6. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 82-52 vs. Oklahoma on Jan. 27.
Key players: G Salim Stoudamire (18.2 pts., 53.9 FT pct.), G Channing Frye (15.6 pts., 7.2 reb.), Hassan Adams (12.5 pts., 5.9 reb.).

Did you know? Frye is a former John Wooden this season for most Pac-10 wins in history.

Outlook: After starting season 20-0, Eagles stung by their first loss to Stanford and Frye at the top of their games, anything short of the Elite Eight will be a disappointment.

4. ALABAMA

Record: 24-7. Last 10: 7-3.
Best win: 88-49 vs. Mississippi State on Jan. 18.
Key players: G Kennedy Winston (18.1 pts., 2.4 reb.), G Daniel Shelton (16.4 pts., 2.1 a.s.t.), F Chuck Davis (14.2 pts., 6.8 reb.).

Did you know? Freshman Alabama's 29th NCAA Sweet 16 team, Gottfried set a tournament record with 17 wins in a win over Vanderbilt.

Outlook: The talented team could reach Sweet 16, but don't look for much more.

5. MISSOURI STATE

Record: 20-9. Last 10: 5-5.
Best win: 61-55 vs. Oklahoma on Feb. 22.
Key players: F Brandon Bass (14.5 pts., 8.8 reb.), G Darrell Mitchell (13.5 pts., 3.0 a.s.t.), F Glen Davis (13.1 pts., 8.7 reb.).

Did you know? Josh Maravich, son of the late Larry Maravich, is a walk-on guard for the Tigers.

Outlook: Lots of promise but little production from the Tigers, who will have to struggle to make it to the Final Four.

6. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Record: 26-5. Last 10: 7-3.
Best win: 71-67 vs. Creighton on Feb. 12.
Key players: G Daniel Gibson (14.5 pts., 40.3 3-pt. pct.), G Jamaal Tatum (12.2 pts., 2.2 a.s.t.), G Stetson Davis (13.1 pts., 8.7 reb.).

Did you know? Brooks was named Missouri's Great Player of the Year in 1972 while in two seasons.

Outlook: With surprise run to Sweet 16 in 2002 and losing by a point to Missouri and Alabama in first round last two years, Salukis are not to be taken lightly.

7. TEXAS

Record: 20-9. Last 10: 6-4.
Best win: 75-61 vs. Oklahoma State on Jan. 17.
Key players: G Daniel Gibson (14.5 pts., 40.3 3-pt. pct.), F Brad Buckman (12.7 pts., 8.3 reb.), C Jason

8. NEVADA

Record: 24-6. Last 10: 9-1.
Best win: 62-60 at UTEP on Feb. 12.
Key players: F Nick Frazier (21.5 pts., 5.4 reb.), F Deron Prince (12.4 pts., 16.4 reb.), G Ramon Sessions (9.2 pts., 8.5 a.s.t.).

Did you know? In its second NCAA appearance ever last year, Wolf Pack stunned No. 7 seed Kansas State and No. 2 seed Gonzaga before falling to Ga. Tech in Sweet 16.

Outlook: Underdogged Wolf Pack shocked field last year, but could pull another surprise against Texas.

9. ST. MARY'S

Record: 25-8. Last 10: 7-3.
Best win: 88-58 vs. Gonzaga on Jan. 8.
Key players: G Paul Maravich (16.8 pts., 43.7 3-pt. pct.), G Daniel King (16.8 pts., 6.7 reb.), G E. Rowland (11.2 pts., 3.8 a.s.t.).

Did you know? St. Mary's first NCAA win in 1959 came four years before Bennett was born.

Outlook: The Blazers upset Washington and Kentucky last year. A similar run is unlikely but not out of the question.

10. WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

Record: 24-5. Last 10: 9-1.
Best win: 86-56 vs. Wisconsin-Green Bay on Jan. 15.

Key players: G Ed McCants (17.4 pts., 2.8 reb.), F Gabe Davis (15.9 pts., 5.9 reb.), G Boo Davis (10.4 pts., 3.3 reb.).

Did you know? Ed McCants, the Horizon League Player of the Year, has made at least one appearance in every Panthers game this season.

Outlook: Fared poorly against big brother Wisconsin and Kansas during regular season. A first-round upset over Alabama would be a shocker.

13. PENNSYLVANIA

Record: 20-8. Last 10: 9-1.
Best win: 87-50 vs. St. Joseph's on Jan. 25.
Key players: G Tim Begley (13.8 pts., 5.4 reb.), G Ibrahim Jaaber (11.3 pts., 2.7 a.s.t.), F Steve Danley (9.4 pts., 5.1 reb.).

Did you know? In 1979, Quakers rode upset wins over North Carolina, Syracuse, St. John's to the final Final Four trip where they were thumped, 80-67, by Magic Johnson-led Michigan State.

Outlook: Only 1-7 in NCAA games under coach Fran Dunphy. Quakers are capable of close call against Boston College, but no more.

14. UTAH STATE

Record: 24-8. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 84-60 at Cal State Fullerton on Jan. 20.
Key players: F Spencer Nelson (16.4 pts., 8.1 reb.), G Jaycee Carroll (14.6 pts., 7.1 reb.), F Nate Harris (11.3 pts., 2.2 reb.).

Did you know? Last year's Utah State team was dented a tournament berth despite a Top 25 ranking and a 25-4 record.

Outlook: A good mix of youth and veterans, the Aggies could catch Arizona napping.

24. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Record: 24-8. Last 10: 8-2.
Best win: 84-60 at Cal State Fullerton on Nov. 21.
Key players: F Ricky Woods (17.2 pts., 6.9 reb.), G Jonathan Patton (11.6 pts., 3.2 reb.), C Nate Lofgren (11.3 pts., 7.2 reb.).

Did you know? The Lions have the sixth-best scoring defense in the nation, allowing just 58.6 points per game.

Outlook: With no experience in the tournament or even against a big-conference team this season, the Lions are a long shot for a single win.

16. FAIRLEIGH Dickinson

Record: 20-9. Last 10: 5-5.
Key players: G Tamiel Reid (15.8 pts., 3.9 reb.), G Deron Prince (15.8 pts., 7.3 reb.), G Chad Timberlake (13.4 pts., 3.9 reb.).

Did you know? Fairleigh Dickinson is a dual-campus university that fields 16 Division I teams.

Outlook: The Knights played virtually no team or conference basketball in the Aggie Invitational, they'll likely be hopelessly overmatched.

Chaney returning for NIT

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — John Chaney will return to coach Temple in the NIT.

Chaney was suspended for the final five games of the season after ordering rough play from one of his players, who subsequently broke the arm of St. Joseph's senior John Bryant.

Chaney, 73, first suspended himself for one game before the school extended the punishment to three games after the extent of Bryant's injury was discovered. The Hall of Fame coach then banned himself from the Temple sidelines for the Atlantic 10 tournament.

The school announced Monday that Chaney would be on the bench when the Owls (16-13) play at Virginia Tech (15-13) in a first-round game Tuesday night.

Top assistant Dan Liebovitz went 3-2 in Chaney's absence.

Liebovitz said Monday that Chaney has been at every home practice and "pretty much has been his usual self." Liebovitz said the players have moved on.

"In their eyes, it's a dead issue at this point," he said.

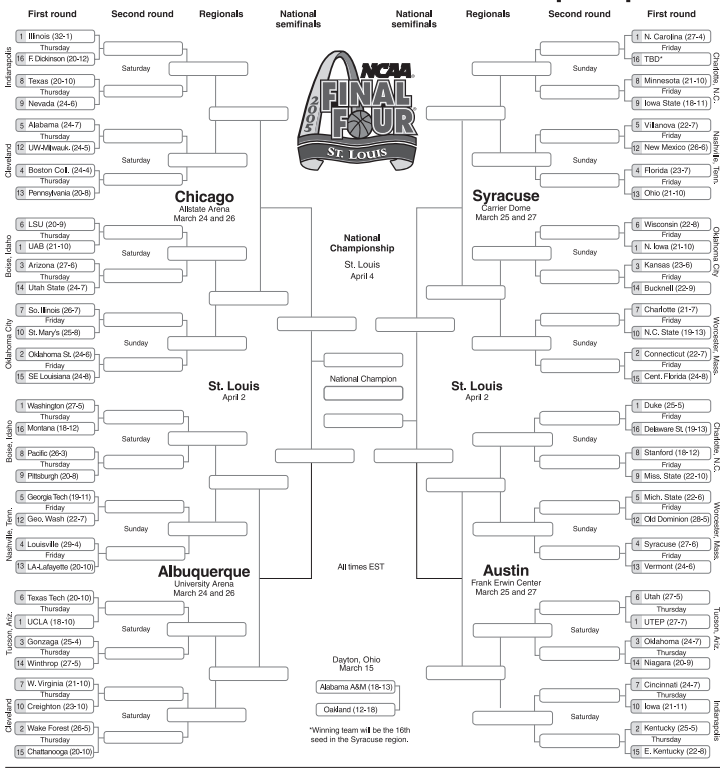
"We've done everything we can as a university to spread our sympathy and our apologies."

Telephone messages left for Chaney and athletic director Bill Bradshaw were not immediately returned.

The Hawks (19-11) also are in the NIT and play Hofstra (21-8) on Wednesday.

In a 63-56 loss to Saint Joseph's on Feb. 22, Chaney used Nehemiah Ingram — a player the coach called a "goor" — to "send a message" by committing hard fouls. Ingram fouled out in four minutes, including the hit on Bryant that left the senior sprawled on the court for several minutes. An MRI revealed he had a broken arm.

2005 NCAA Division I men's basketball championship



NCAA: Poor play late costs Wake, Boston College

NCAA, FROM BACK PAGE

the Conference USA regular season and tournament titles. Instead, the weekend's upsets turned everything upside down.

It's the sixth time in eight years two teams from the same conference were seeded No. 1. The last time was 2003, with Oklahoma and Texas of the Big 12. No conference has ever had three No. 1s and for the first time ever two No. 1s will be playing in the same venue.

Duke and North Carolina will both play Friday in Charlotte. Duke opens against Delaware State (19-13), while North Carolina meets the same foe on Tuesday's play-in game between Oklahoma (22-18) and Alabama A&M (18-13).

Oakland is the only team in the field with a losing record.

"We try to keep people as close to home as possible, and that starts on Line 1," Bowlsby said.

Kentucky drew a No. 2 seed after losing to Florida in the SEC championship and

will play in nearby Indianapolis. Louisville drew the No. 4 seed in Albuquerque and opens in Nashville, Tenn.

The people inside here were saying, "We're definitely a 2, maybe a 1," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "I said, 'Look, don't be surprised if we're a 3.' I had a gut feeling."

Other teams were not so lucky.

Bowlsby said Wake Forest could have sneaked back into a top seed if Duke had lost the ACC title game. Instead, the Deacons Deacons were given a No. 2 seed and sent to Cleveland for a contest with Chattanooga (20-10) and a possible regional all-star showdown with Washington.

Seventh-ranked Boston College (24-4), the Big East regular-season co-champion, was shipped to Cleveland, where it faces Ivy League champ Pennsylvania. Boston College is No. 4 in Chicago.

"I'm disappointed, because we had it in our hands, being 20-0, and let it slip away," Eagles forward Jared Dudley said. "But you can cry about it, or you can do something about it."

Two other Big East schools, Connecticut (22-7) and Syracuse (27-6), will play in Worcester, Mass. Connecticut, the defending national champion, is the second seed in Syracuse, while the Orange are No. 4 in Austin.

The committee can't put more than two teams from the same conference at one site.

Among those not invited were Saint Joseph's (19-11), DePaul (19-10), Maryland (16-12) and Notre Dame (17-11). With the Irish missing the cut and 15-13 Indiana falling off the bubble, it is the first time since 1992 that the state of Indiana was shut out of the tournament.

The Illini won't get any frequent flyer miles in this tournament, with the first and second rounds in Indianapolis, the regional in Chicago and the Final Four on April 2 and 4 in St. Louis.

Illinois opens Thursday against Northeast Conference champion Fairleigh Dickinson. They were followed in the Chicago regional by second-seeded Oklahoma

State, which won the Big 12 tournament; No. 3 Arizona, the regular-season Pac-10 champion; and Boston College.

Washington opens Thursday in Boise against Montana, the Big Sky champion. Gonzaga is the No. 3 seed in the region and plays Winthrop.

After North Carolina, which lost to Georgia Tech in the ACC semifinal, and Connecticut, Kansas is No. 3 and Florida is No. 4.

Along with Duke and Kentucky in the Austin bracket are third-seeded Oklahoma and Syracuse.

The Big East and Big 12 each has six teams in the field, one short of the record, while the ACC, SEC and Big Ten have five apiece. The other multiple bid leagues were Conference USA and the Pac-10 with four; the Missouri Valley with three; and the Big West, Mountain West, West Coast and Western Athletic Conference with two.

The last of the big-large teams were all No. 11 seeds: Alabama-Birmingham (21-10), Northern Iowa (21-10) and UCLA (18-10).

What! Who's No. 1?

Committee says Stanford isn't worthy of a top regional seeding

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

LSU and Tennessee tried to make it easy on the selection committee for NCAA women's basketball tournament.

If only the other top teams had been as cooperative.

By winning so often against top-caliber competition, LSU and Tennessee were obvious choices as No. 1 seeds in the tournament bracket that went up Sunday. It took careful examination and considerable debate to come up with the two others: Michigan State and North Carolina.

Uh, notice anybody missing here? That would be Stanford, the No. 1 team in The Associated Press poll. For the first time since it happened to Texas in 1984, the nation's top-ranked team is not a No. 1 seed in the NCAA field.

The disappointed Cardinal, 29-2 with 20 straight victories, did their best to be diplomatic. Still, it wasn't what they had expected after sweeping the regular-season and tournament championships in the Pac-10, a league that ended up with as many NCAA teams (5) as the more highly regarded Southeastern Conference.

"Honestly, a long time ago I stopped trying to figure out the committee and seeds," said Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer, whose team reached the regional finals last year as a No. 6 seed.

"What's much more important to me is the team being healthy. There's no sense in overanalyzing the thing."

Stanford wasn't healthy last time it was seeded No. 1, in 1998, and was stunned by 16th-seeded Harvard in the first round.

LSU was the overall No. 1 seed and was followed by Tennessee, Michigan State and North Carolina. Baylor also got consideration for as the highest-ranked No. 2 seed.

Stanford came next.

"We spent more time on the No. 1s than any year I've been on the committee," said Lynn Parkes, who chairs the group. "When we got down to those last two, we wasn't much to separate them."

Stanford's seeding wasn't the only thing that raised questions.

The committee decided to send Rutgers to the first- and second-round site at Connecticut, where the teams had a flare-up after the Big East championship game last week.

2005 NCAA Division I women's basketball championship



Johnson outruns Busch brothers in Vegas

Hendrick driver stops Roush run with UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 win

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Three races this season, three battles between Hendrick Motorsports and Roush Racing.

Give Hendrick the edge, two victories to one, after Jimmie Johnson stopped the Roush stranglehold at Las Vegas Motor Speedway by winning the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 on Sunday.

But Roush came out a little cleaner after Johnson and runner-up Kyle Busch, another Hendrick driver, both failed post-race inspection. The roof on Johnson's Chevrolet was too low, and the rear quarter panel on Busch's car was too high.

There were no immediate penalties announced, but NASCAR

could elect to dock points from both drivers. Doing so would cost Johnson the 15-point lead he has over reigning Nextel Cup champion Kurt Busch.

But Johnson isn't points racing, yet, focusing instead on spending the \$30,000 bonus he earned for taking over the points lead.

"I can have a little fun at the blackjack table," Johnson said. "But I'm not concerned about the points lead yet."

Johnson, who won for the 15th time in his career, has victories in five of the last nine races, dating to last season. He hasn't finished worse than sixth since October, and this victory put him right

back where he spent most of last season — on top of the points.

This latest victory helped Hendrick Motorsports claim a piece of the track in the desert that Roush Racing has dominated with five victories in the first seven races.

But with Johnson and Hendrick teammates Kyle Busch finishing second and Jeff Gordon fourth, the Roush dominance is over. Kurt Busch carried the Roush flag with a third-place finish.

Hendrick now has two wins this season — Gordon won the season-opener at Daytona — and Roush has one since Greg Biffle winning at California.

"It's going to be a fun battle all the way to the end," Kurt Busch said. "You could say that Hendrick and Roush definitely have a distinct advantage over the other groups."

Johnson's win also ruined what could have been a banner day for the Busch brothers, Las Vegas natives.

As Johnson was driving his Chevrolet to Victory Lane, Kyle was treasuring his second-place finish.

"This is as good as a win as far as I'm concerned," he yelled to his crew.

"I had a bunch of guys put money on me, so it would have been cool to have Jimmie pull over and let us win," said Kyle, who went off at 60-1 before the race. "But, hey, next year I'll probably have a lot better odds."

Harrington earns first victory on PGA Tour

The Associated Press

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — As Padraig Harrington mounted a charge in the Honda Classic, birds came so easily he began thinking about shooting 59. He settled for his first PGA Tour title instead.

Harrington won when Vijay Singh missed a 2½-foot putt to bogey the second playoff hole Sunday.

Ranked eighth in the world, the Dublin native is believed to be the first player from the Republic of Ireland to win a tour event.

He figured his countrymen watched on TV.

"I'm sure I kept a few pubs open tonight," Harrington said.

"It's very good to be the first Irishman. We have produced a lot of competitive players."

An assistant to Irish President Mary McAleese phoned with congratulations. Harrington caught a break with Singh's miss, but he earned the title by shooting a 9-under-par 63 in the final round.

Down seven shots when the day began, Harrington birdied 10 of the first 13 holes and briefly took sole possession of the lead.

"I had not looked at a leader board," he said. "I was just thinking about shooting 59... I'm thinking, 'I'm 10 under. It's there. How much more work do you have to do?'"

When consecutive bogeys ended his bid to tie the PGA Tour record, Harrington began to focus on winning the tournament. He was in a four-way tie for the lead when he finished nearly 90 minutes after the last group, and earned a playoff with Singh and Joe Ogilvie when all three finished at 14-under 274.

The par-4 No. 18 was used for both playoff holes, and Harrington scrambled to get up-and-down for par each time. Ogilvie was eliminated when he bogeyed the first extra hole, and Singh uncharacteristically failed on the verge of victory.

He missed a 15-foot birdie try on the first playoff hole that would have given him the win. After Harrington made a 4-foot putt to par the second extra hole, Singh pushed his par try and the ball rimmed out.

"I thought it was a gimme," Harrington said. "If I had done it, I would be distraught, but thankfully Vijay has won enough that he shouldn't let it get to him."

Smyth wins SBC Classic

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. — Ireland's Des Smyth won his first Champions Tour title, closing with a 4-under 68 for a one-stroke victory over D.A. Weirbach and Mark McNulty in the SBC Classic.

Smyth finished with a 5-under 211 total on the Valencia Country Club course. McNulty shot a 74, and Weirbach had a 72.

Golf
rundown

Get The Sand Out Of Your Hair!

Try the Luck O' The Irish...
Enter for a chance to win a 2005 Sportster 883 Custom
at one of the following Exchange New Car Sales locations:

Iraq - Camp Victory / North Baghdad,
Camp Anaconda / Balad, Camp Cooke / Tajil,
Al Asad, Camp Raider / Tikrit,
Camp Renegade / Kirkuk
Kuwait - Camp Doha, Camp Arifjan - Zone 1,
Camp Arifjan - Zone 6, Al Al Salim
Afghanistan - Bagram, Kandahar
Qatar - Al Udeid, Al Saliyah
Bahrain - ASU Base / Manama
Dubai - Al Dafra



Pick up a FREE
OIF St. Patrick's Day
Button

Special OIF/OEF pricing. Order here. Pick it up Stateside.

If you are not able to visit our sales locations, you can receive sales assistance by contacting our Dubai office:

ENCSME@militarycars.com • Tel: 971-4-2994470 • Fax: 971-4-2994377



Authorized Independent Distributor To The U.S.
Armed Forces For Harley-Davidson



*No purchase necessary to enter. See complete rules and regulations at www.militarycars.com. *While supplies last. Customer must be assigned overseas for 90 days or more (USC 10705) to purchase Harley-Davidson vehicles. All restrictions and specifications are the best of our knowledge correct as of the date of publication. They are subject to change made by the manufacturer and the laws or regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Vehicle shown is for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment at additional cost. All programs and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. See your sales representative for details. Sportster/Chopper Corporation, Ford and General Motors are authorized contractors of AAFES and NEXCOM. Exchange New Car Sales is an authorized contractor to sell and distribute Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Honda and Harley-Davidson vehicles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by AAFES, NEXCOM, the SBC components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. 05/02/05

SPORTS

Seeds of contention



Johnson ends Roush stranglehold in Vegas,
Page 31



Top: Illinois' Deron Williams directs his teammates during the championship game of the Big Ten tournament Sunday. Illinois got the top seed in the Chicago region. **Below left:** Oklahoma State's Terrence Crawford celebrates the Cowboys' Big 12 Tournament victory. The Big 12 got six NCAA berths. **Center:** Florida's Matt Walsh reacts near the end of a 70-53 rout of Kentucky in the SEC Tournament championship. **Above right:** Duke's Shavlik Randolph and the Blue Devils earned a No. 1 seed by beating Georgia Tech in the ACC tournament final.

AP PHOTOS

Late upsets help throw NCAA tournament selections into chaos

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA selection committee expected to struggle in seeding this year's 65-team tournament field. Every weekend upset made the task even more daunting.

With a record number of schools topping 20 wins, a rash of surprise finishes and a continually changing picture, nothing was decided easily. Not even choosing the top four seeds — Illinois, North Carolina, Duke and Washington.

The 10 committee members debated into the final hour Sunday about how the brackets should look, and finally settled on making Washington a No. 1 seed.

"You want to make sure you get it right on Line 1 but you also want to get it right on Lines 2, 3 and 4," selection committee chairman Bob Bowlsby said. "If you don't, then the fairness of the tournament is then really called into question."

Bowlsby's fifth year on the committee might have been his toughest.

He acknowledged teams such as Kansas and Gonzaga



■ Illinois gets closest thing to home-court advantage, Page 27

■ Formidable foursome top Syracuse regional, Page 26

■ Austin sets up Duke, Kentucky final, Page 25

may have deserved better than a No. 3 seed. Others, like Maryland and Buffalo, maybe could complain they should have been included.

Then there was Bowlsby's own school — he is the athletic director at Iowa — which leapfrogged Indiana into the

tournament even though the Hoosiers won three more Big Ten games.

"And yet it was the late-game results that created the most chaos."

"It was a big headache," Bowlsby said. "We had about five or six different scenarios that involved about four teams and a lot of them were either-or-type situations."

The top three seeds — Illinois (32-1) in the Chicago region, North Carolina (27-4) in Syracuse, N.Y., and Duke (25-5) in Austin, Texas — were no surprise.

The Illini won the Big Ten regular season and then the tournament title and were ranked No. 1 most of the season.

The Tar Heels and Blue Devils split the regular-season and tournament titles in the Atlantic Coast Conference, which had the nation's highest conference RPI. But Washington (27-5), which ranked No. 14 last week, took the No. 1 seed in Albuquerque. Many thought that spot could have gone to a third ACC school, Wake Forest; Southeastern Conference regular-season champ Kentucky (25-5); or sixth-ranked Louisville (29-4), which won

SEE NCAA ON PAGE 28

No. 1 Stanford doesn't get top seed in women's tournament Page 29